

Turkish Army promises civilian Cabinet this week

The Turkish military who seized power last Friday are to appoint a civilian government this week. General Evren, head of the junta, said yesterday that the Army would return to barracks once a new constitutional structure to safeguard against anarchy had been set up. He seemed reluctant to say how long that would take.

No date for return to democracy

From Mario Modiano

Ankara, Sept 16
Turkey's military leaders sought to reassure the world today that the Army, which seized power last Friday, would return to its barracks after giving the nation a new constitutional structure safeguarded against a recurrence of anarchy and political chaos.

However, General Kenan Evren, the Chief of Staff, who heads the ruling National Security Council, seemed reluctant to say how long the transition to democratic rule would take.

Facing a prodding throng of international journalists at a press conference, he spoke of a "reasonable period of time" being needed, but the extent of the structural reforms that he outlined suggested that this could hardly be a matter of months.

"The National Security Council," he said, "is determined to remove all obstacles which have hindered the healthy functioning of the democratic order so far, in a way that would preclude for ever the need for similar interventions."

General Evren was sitting alongside the chiefs of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the gendarmerie, who are members of the junta. General Khaydar Saltik, the council's secretary-general, who is widely regarded as the regime's *éminence grise*, was seated separately. They were all in uniform.

Security precautions at the junta's first public appearance were hardly noticeable, although journalists needed double accreditation to obtain access to the cabinet room of the Prime Minister's office, where the press conference was held.

The discretion with which the military are maintaining their grip on the country reflects perhaps as much the high prestige enjoyed by the armed forces here as the understandable tendency of the warring extremes to lie low for a while.

But observers in Ankara are wondering whether political violence can be wiped out by the military as rapidly and as effectively as the political graffiti which they ordered to be washed off the street walls.

General Evren said that a civilian government would be appointed later this week to which the National Security

Council would delegate executive authority. It is understood from regime sources that it will consist mainly of technocrats under a carefully selected prime minister who will be as apolitical as is possible in Turkey today.

According to the general, a provisional constitution will be prepared to rectify the disconcerting flaws detected during the application of the abolished charter which itself had been the product of corrective military interventions.

The final text of the new constitution would be endorsed by a constituent assembly. "It is our purpose," General Evren said, "to restore civilian administration after completing the legal arrangements within a reasonable period of time."

The armed forces had intervened because the politicians had failed to realize that only those who believed in democracy were entitled to democratic freedom.

They had also neglected, despite repeated warnings, to produce the legislative measures needed to ensure this, or to ensure that the coming generation would be equipped to defend democratic values.

The last straw, General Evren explained, had been the attempt to exploit sectarian and ethnic differences in order to divide the nation. He suggested that if the coup had not taken place, these treacherous forces would have infiltrated the armed forces and attempted to divide them as well.

Since Friday's coup, several thousand militants of the extreme right and left have been rounded up, but there are no official estimates of the numbers.

Among them are about 80 parliamentarians, with penal charges pending against them, but whose immunity had been blocked by the judicial authorities. Summaries of these charges are likely to be made public shortly.

General Evren repeated today that the regime had no intention of prosecuting politicians for their political activities or beliefs, but only for criminal offences. It is understood that both Mr Necmettin Erbakan, the leader of the Marxist fundamentalist National Salvation Party, and Mr Alpaslan Turkes, leader of the National Action

Party, will be liable to prosecution.

The general was asked about the fate of the main political leaders arrested or detained. He said without betraying much irony: "They are not under arrest, nor are they detained. They are free to move as they like where they are now."

Mr Demirel, the deposed Prime Minister, and Mr Ecevit, the opposition leader, are confined in a military camp at Gallipoli. General Evren said they had been sent there for their own safety and would be allowed to return "after we have reached a quiet period." Parties had not been abolished, merely suspended.

Two aspects of government policy will remain unchanged,

according to the leaders of the coup: the country's foreign orientation which is marked by loyalty to Nato, and the economic stabilization programme followed by the deposed Demirel government.

The general expressed the hope that the West would abide by its economic pledges to Turkey.

There was little doubt that Turkey's military rulers faced the world's press reflected a conviction that their action had been right, that their grip on the country was firm, and that the world at large was displaying towards this junta perhaps greater tolerance than it has shown to the leaders of military coups elsewhere in the West.

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for the captives' release which did not include a trial or a demand for an apology from the United States for its past role in Iran. But he repeated his order: first issued seven months ago, that the Majlis alone would set terms for their release.

The Majlis voted to defer the setting up of a hostage commission until next Thursday, but political sources doubted whether both its composition and task could be decided in one day.

Yet there was evidence that the Assembly, charged by Ayatollah Khomeini with resolving the crisis, was opposed to further indefinite delay.

In his unexpected intervention four days ago, Ayatollah Khomeini laid down four con-

tions intended to scrutinize any settlement proposals closely.

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Mr Saeq Qotbzadeh, the outgoing Iranian Foreign Minister, said today he thought the hostage crisis could be resolved before the American presidential election. But this depended on the speed with which the Iranian Parliament moved in setting terms for the release of the hostages, he said.

"I think there is a possibility. The most important thing is that the (hostage) situation

Talks on steel takeover begin tomorrow

A private consortium and the British Steel Corporation begin talks tomorrow which could lead to a takeover of the Consett steelworks that the corporation closed last week. Representatives of the consortium, which has not announced its composition, will outline the details of the scheme today. It will negotiate a bid of £1.25m and £2.25m for the works. The consortium plans to employ about 2,700 workers at Consett and to be in business within two months of an agreement being reached.

134pc Israeli inflation is world's worst

Tel Aviv, Sept 16.—Israel's inflation has risen to an annual rate of 134 per cent, the world's highest, official figures showed today.

But Israelis long accustomed to three-digit inflation took the news calmly, confident that the world would be enlightened against the worst effects of the inflation.

Hardly had the figures been announced than Treasury officials were making it known that wages would go up next month by Government order by around 20 per cent.

This is one of the wage rises which all employers must pay every three months.—Reuters.

Passengers escape from blazing jet

Disaster was narrowly averted when a blazing undercarriage forced Pan American DC10 to abort take-off at Heathrow. The pilot halted the aircraft 400 yards from the end of the runway. Passengers and crew escaped down emergency chutes. It was the second incident in four days affecting a Pan Am DC10.

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Jewish vote crucial

Since 1974 Jews in Britain have been exhorted to use their votes to serve their interests as Jewish citizens. A paper to be presented to the Political Studies Association says: "The Jewish vote was crucial in a number of constituencies

Libyans get life for murder of exiles

Two Libyans, who masqueraded as tourists to enter Britain and murder a fellow-countryman as he left a mosque in London, were jailed for life yesterday. A third Libyan was jailed for life for murdering another man.

Ben Hasan Muhammad El Masri, aged 28, and Magid Muris Gasmi, aged 26, arrived in the first week of February at Bow Street Magistrate's Court, for the prosecution, told Mr Justice Kilner Brown at the Central Criminal Court.

"It is clear from the evidence that while masquerading as tourists, they came to this country in fact as assassins to murder for political motives."

Mr Masri, of Cornwall Gardens, South Kensington, and Mr Gasmi, of Princess Court, Bayswater, pleaded guilty to murdering Mr Muhammad Ramazan, a journalist, on April 11.

Mr Gasmi also admitted possessing a revolver and three rounds of ammunition with intent to endanger life. Mr Masri denied using a revolver with intent to prevent or resist arrest, and that was accepted by the prosecution.

Mr Tudor Price said: "Mr Ramazan was one of eight Libyans murdered in Europe about the same time. Two were killed in London.

Mr Ramazan, aged 36, had been in Britain since 1965 and was a journalist. On the day he was murdered, a Friday, Mr Ramazan had attended a service at the London Central Mosque at Hanover Gate, Regent's Park.

When the service ended, Mr Ramazan walked into the court yard where Mr Masri had shot him in the back at point-blank range with a .38 revolver", Mr Tudor Price said.

Mr Masri fired three bullets into the left side of Mr Ramazan's back. The shots caused fatal internal injuries. "It is not entirely clear where Mr Gasmi was at that moment,"

Mr Tudor Price said. "But wherever he was he was in possession of a pistol.

"When later interviewed by the police about his part in the matter, he said that if Mr Ramazan had escaped from Mr Masri, he would have shot him himself with that gun."

After firing the shots Mr Masri ran from the courtyard and was caught by two unarmed policemen.

As Mr Masri fired three bullets into the back of Mr Ramazan, he was hit in the shoulder. The shots caused fatal internal injuries. "It is not entirely clear where Mr Gasm

Continued on page 2, col 4

Rare illustrated manuscript by Leonardo da Vinci expected to fetch a record auction price

By Frances Gibb
An illustrated manuscript by Leonardo da Vinci, considered by scholars to be one of the rarest and most valuable still owned privately, is to be auctioned at Christie's in December.

The 36-page work, known as the Codex Leicester, could well fetch in the region of £50 million, making it the most expensive work of art to be auctioned.

Entitled "On the nature of the sky and other astronomical subjects", it is a scientific and cosmological account which was of fundamental importance to the artist in his creation of the landscape in the Mona Lisa.

Da Vinci wrote the work in Italy in about 1507. It is written from right to left in brown ink and is heavily illustrated.

The manuscript has been at Holkham Hall, Norfolk, family seat of the Earls of Leicester, since 1717. It has been sent for sale by the trustees of the Holkham estate.

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The sale, to be officially announced by Christie's at the end of the week, is likely to provoke a furor in the art world. The manuscript has not been offered to the British Library and its sale was not known about by the Office of Works.

The American museums, such as the Metropolitan Museum, and others like the Louvre, are likely to try to acquire the work, and the trustees of the Holkham estate will come under pressure to explain why the manuscript has not first been offered to the nation.

The British Library is unlikely to be able to buy the manuscript when it comes up for sale because in July it paid £250,000 for Rashid Al-Din's *World History*.

"It is a statement issued earlier this week," Christie's said. It had never been privileged before to offer for sale a work of such importance and rarity.

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HOME NEWS

Private consortium and BSC will begin discussions tomorrow on takeover of Consett steelworks

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The British Steel Corporation and a private consortium will begin talks tomorrow which could lead to a takeover of the corporation's Consett steelworks that closed last week.

Representatives of the consortium, which has not announced its composition, have formally communicated their interest to the BSC and in the past two days have met to finalize their plans.

The boards of the companies involved were being asked yesterday formally to commit their companies to participate. The consortium of about a dozen members will outline the details of the scheme later today. It will negotiate at between £1.25m and £2.25m for the works.

The members of the consortium, from Whitby, to show their hand as soon as possible. BSC has agreed to let the blast furnace and coke ovens at Consett work.

The corporation went ahead with the closure last week after

reaching agreement with steel industry unions on severance and redundancy terms. It is estimated that surplus capacity for the production of steel billets is a million tonnes.

The closure was confirmed at the end of last month by Mr Ian MacGregor, the chairman of BSC, in talks with union leaders when he made it clear that if Consett did not close the axe would have to fall somewhere else.

The consortium is understood to have carried out detailed market studies that suggest that in private ownership the works could expect to obtain a significant share of the United Kingdom market taken over by imports after the steel strike. In its application with other BSC plants, where efforts are being made to reduce costs.

BSC is believed to be concerned at the prospect of a private sector takeover of Consett which would bring in competition with other BSC plants, where efforts are being made to reduce costs.

The consortium plans to compete for export markets with West Germany. It believes that the Consett plate mill, which was closed 18 months ago, has a future and it may reopen the mill to meet the demand expected from the Central

Electricity Generating Board's nuclear power station building programme.

If discussions with BSC are successful, the consortium plans to employ about 2,700 workers at Consett and to be in business within two months of an agreement.

The negotiations will be tough. BSC, which is faced with reducing the large losses of last year, has emphasized that any private-sector takeover of the Consett works will involve the new owners taking over the closure and redundancy costs, estimated at £35m. But that is not considered an insuperable barrier by the consortium.

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New paper
just a little
unclear
policy

The boot's in the back. The kick's up the front.

Understandably, many cars with big boots tend to be a little leaden footed.

The way they weigh it up, space comes before pace.

Not so the Volkswagen Jetta.

Certainly it has a boot quite out of proportion to any other cars in its category.

15.5 cu. ft., as against the Ital's 12.4 for example. Or the Cortina's 11.3.

But it's up front that the Jetta really gets its kicks.

The 1500cc engine takes it from standstill to 50 in 8.6 seconds. And that's quicker than the Mirafiori can make it, even with 1600ccs.

With so much going for the Jetta front and back how does it fare in the middle?

Even with room for so many cubic feet in the boot, there's still plenty for some pretty leggy passengers.

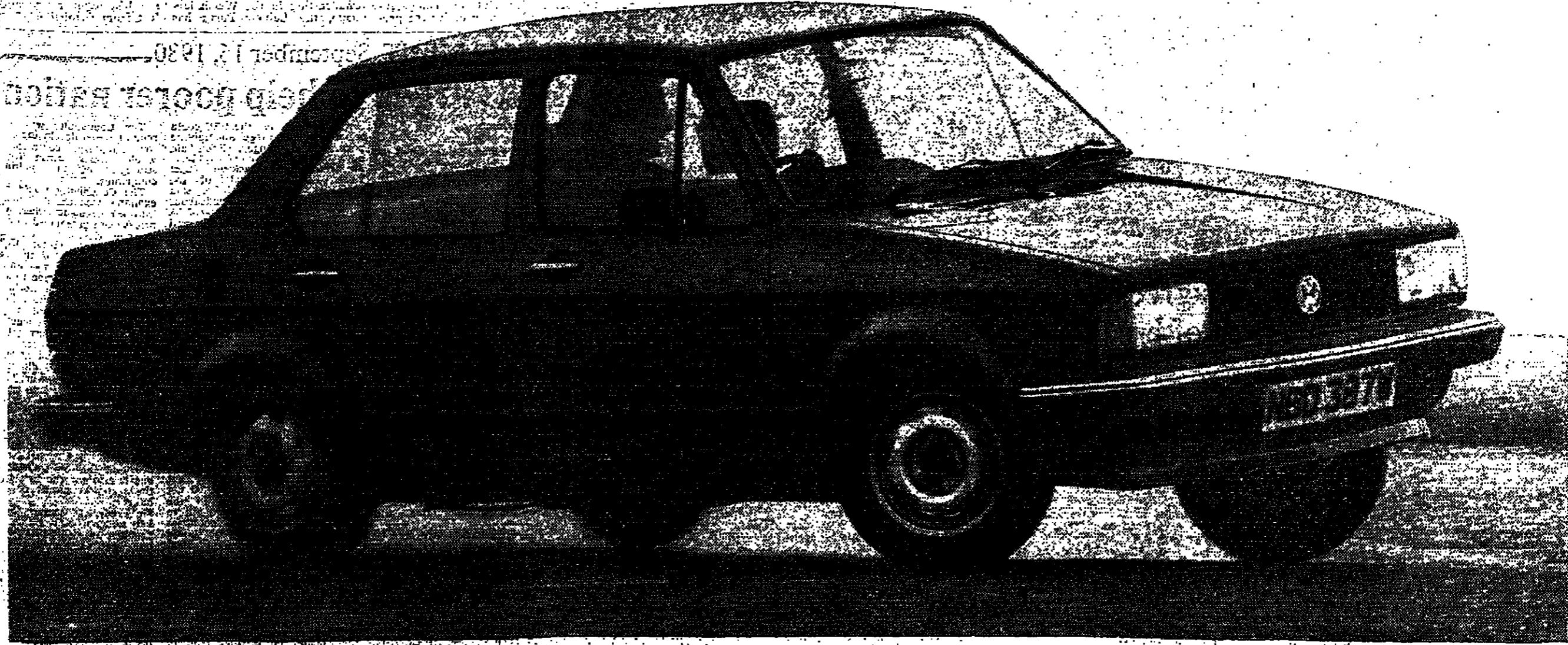
And no shortage of doors to let them in and out.

In other words too, the Jetta is exceptionally long-legged.

Between gallons, for instance, it'll lopé along for 38.7 miles* at a steady 56 mph.

Between major services, it'll cover no less than 10,000 miles.

Features which, between ourselves, give some Jetta drivers the biggest kick of the lot.



HOME NEWS

Jewish vote is crucial to several MPs, study by lecturer says

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
Six Jews or people of Jewish origin in the National Front are known to Dr Geoffrey Alderman, lecturer in British government at the Royal Holloway College, London University. Probably there are nine in total, he says in a paper to be presented to a Political Studies Association meeting in Cardiff today.

Controversy surrounds Dr Alderman's work on a more general move to the political right within the Jewish electorate. Support for the National Front is a small, extreme sign of that, he says.

Dr Alderman, a practising Orthodox Jew, says that for the National Front, Jewish members or members of Jewish origin, however few, are excellent propaganda material. For the Anglo-Jewish establishment they are a severe embarrassment.

Earlier this month, a research report published by the Institute of Jewish Affairs denied a claim that an articulate and orchestrated Jewish vote exists in Britain.

"Hardly any Jew in the House of Commons owes his position to his leadership of the Jewish community" or to an ethnic block vote, Dr Barry A Kosmin, director of the research unit of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and consultant to the research unit on ethnic relations at Aston University, Birmingham.

Dr Alderman says in his paper that since 1974 the Jewish voters of Britain have been exhausted, both by political parties and by communal leaders, to approach political affairs, and hence to exercise their franchises, in a Jewish way; "in a way, that is, which would reflect and serve their interests not just as British citizens but as Jewish citizens." In 1979, he says, the Board of Deputies, in addition to urging an anti-National Front vote, sent a list to deputies of 85 key seats, in which it recommended approaches to all candidates of the main political

parties "to ascertain their views on Middle East matters".

In the mid-1970s, several MPs, including Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Battersea, Finchley, became "prisoners of the Jewish voters", he claims.

The MPs, mostly Conservatives, included Mr John Gorst at Barnet, Hendon North; Mr Geoffrey Finberg at Camden, Hampstead; Mr Thomas Iremonger and Mrs Millie Miller (Labour) at Redbridge, Ilford, North; Mr Tim Sainsbury at Hove; and Mr James Callaghan (Labour) at Middleton and Prestwich (not the party leader).

In October, 1974, Mrs Thatcher retained her seat with a majority reduced to 3,911. In February, 1975, she became the first leader of a main party to contest a constituency where the Jewish vote, though roughly 8,700, or 16 per cent of the electorate, was crucial, Dr Alderman says. Her majority in the May, 1979, election was 7,787.

At the end of 1974 Mr Michael Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies from 1967 to 1973, and Conservative MP for Bury and Radcliffe from 1970-1974, formed and became director of the Conservative Friends of Israel, to encourage support of Conservative MPs and others in the cause of the Jewish state, and to demonstrate the strength of support for Israel within the party. Mrs Thatcher was an early adherent of that group, Dr Alderman says.

A speech by Sir Keith Joseph at the Ilford by-election in 1978 was the first time in more than 50 years that a leading Conservative politician, more or less officially, had appealed to Jewish voters to support the party on an important policy issue and had witnessed a positive response, Dr Alderman says.

He notes that the Conservatives won back Ilford North on a swing of 6.9 per cent, but among Jewish voters there was a swing to the Conservatives of 11.2 per cent.

Risks seen in outdated brain operations

By Lucy Hodges

Crude and old-fashioned brain surgery is still being carried out in this country, perhaps causing irreversible damage to patients, according to MIND, the mental health pressure group.

There are enormous differences in the surgical techniques used and in the parts of the brain which are cut open, *Mind Out*, the group's journal says. Some doctors still use free-hand operating methods, or suture to remove sections of the brain rather than the more complicated X-ray technique where radioactive rods or implants are destroyed particular bits of the brain. Mr Larry Gestin, MIND's legal director, and Miss Lindsay Knight, the authors, say.

A survey of operations, carried out by the Royal College of Psychiatrists between 1974 and 1975, showed that patients were given this surgery for mental disorders ranging from depression, where there is some evidence to show it can be effective, to aggression, anorexia nervosa, schizophrenia and self-destructive behaviour, where there is far less evidence.

Thus, the surgical techniques do not yet conform to any widely honoured medical orthodoxy, the article says. It is disquieting that the same site in the brain is the target for treating quite different disorders.

About 15,000 such operations were carried out in Britain up to 1960, but the side-effects were often serious and many of these patients now lead a substandard existence in hospitals", MIND says.

Welsh doctor's holiday home is damaged by fire

From Our Correspondent
Llandudno

A holiday cottage belonging to a disabled Welsh doctor was badly damaged by fire yesterday. A window was found open at the cottage at Tan-y-griwau, near Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd. The windows of another holiday cottage, not far away, were shattered.

Police said last night: "It is believed to be a suspicious fire because there is no apparent cause. There was no device there but specimens of burnt material are being sent for examination."

The detached cottage is in the village street and is owned by Dr Elifion Price Owens, aged 37, of Withington, Manchester. He is confined to a

wheelchair because of a climbing accident in Snowdonia several years ago.

A man on his way to work at 6.30 am saw the flames and gave the alarm. The fire brigade said that most of the damage was in the downstairs bedroom specially adapted for Dr Owens' use.

Mr Owens, a psychiatrist, and his wife use the cottage as a holiday retreat. He comes from South Wales.

"I am familiar and, to some degree, sympathetic with the economic difficulties in Wales, and others concerning the culture and language," he said. "I am distressed in the sense that I am disabled and the room had been converted for my use."

US serviceman on LSD charge

Robert Hammond, aged 22, a United States serviceman of fifty Road, Oxford, was given bail by Oxford magistrates yesterday on a charge of possessing the drug LSD. A second serviceman, Anthony Spain, aged 23, was given bail on a cannabis possession charge.

LSD and cannabis worth more than £25,000 have been seized by the police after a month long investigation into suspected drug abuse on the USAF base at Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire. Seventy-four servicemen and British civilians have been interviewed.

Trawler under escort

HMS Shetland, a fisheries protection vessel, escorted a Spanish trawler to Plymouth last night for allegedly fishing without a licence off the Lizard, Cornwall.

Boys shown to be more numerate than girls

By Frances Gibb

Only slightly more than one in three fifteen year olds can divide 40 by 0.8 and fewer than half know how to define a square, according to the first national survey of the age group's mathematical abilities, published yesterday.

The survey shows that while most 15 year olds can cope with very simple sums of addition and subtraction, there is a drop in the success rate of up to 30 per cent when the sums are presented in a more complicated or unfamiliar way.

It also shows that boys do better at all kinds of sums than girls.

About 80 to 90 per cent of pupils can do sums such as 76 multiplied by seven, and 396 divided by six, but only 35 per cent could give the correct answer to 40 divided by 0.8, the survey shows.

About one in two 15 year olds can add one half and one sixteenth, and the same number can multiply simple fractions. But subtraction or division of fractions is found more difficult, and only 40 per cent gave correct answers.

The survey was carried out in 1978 by the Assessment of Performance Unit (APU), at the Department of Education and Science. It follows a report published earlier this year on the mathematical abilities of 11-year-olds, and is to be followed by further reports on both age groups.

Tests on the use of mathematics in an everyday context showed that 62 per cent of pupils could calculate the distance travelled when given two five-mileometer readings, but only 25 per cent were able to calculate an electricity bill from two meter readings given the standing charge and the price for each unit.

About half could work out the price of a new suit, given the original price and the fact that it had been reduced 30 per cent.

In geometry, half the pupils could measure an acute angle precisely and a further 20 per cent were only one degree out. But with obtuse angles, the success rate fell to only 35 and 25 per cent respectively.

Overall, the survey says that children in rural areas did better than those in city areas and pupils in south England and Northern Ireland generally achieved higher scores than those in the North and the Midlands. Pupils in Wales had the lowest mean scores.

The unit says that the results must be treated with caution. It would be misleading, it comments, to draw inferences from one set of results in isolation from the rest.

On average the scores ranged from 21 per cent to 54 per cent with an overall average of 40.4 per cent. But the unit says it would have been quite easy to have got the average scores up to 50 per cent by including a different mix of easy or hard questions.

The survey was based on written and practical tests given to about 10,000 pupils from English schools; about 2,500 from Welsh schools and 2,000 from Northern Ireland. Altogether about 600 schools took part.

Mathematical Development: Secondary Survey Report No 2 (Stationery Office, £6.50).

Ex-Ladbroke's man cleared of corruption

From Our Correspondent
Nottingham

Three men were sent for trial by Nottingham magistrates yesterday on corruption charges concerning the Ladbrooke gambling empire and the national police computer.

The case against a fourth man, Malcolm Rowley, aged 31, former Ladbrooke marketing director of Victoria Crescent, Histon, Essex, was dismissed after the court heard there was no case to answer.

The others were sent for trial to Nottingham Crown Court under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1906.

Rodney Widdowson, aged 53, a former Nottinghamshire police inspector and ex-Ladbroke security officer of Westholme Gardens, Aspley, Nottingham, and Gordon Irvine, aged 34, a former Ladbrooke casino director of High Street, Great Broughton, North Yorkshire, are jointly charged with corruptly offering money for information about car numbers from the computer.

Brian Crowsor, aged 39, a police sergeant of Nottingham Road, Keyworth, is accused of corruptly agreeing to supply the information for reward.

He told the inquest beginners



Two panels from Stanley Spencer's First World War series being examined yesterday by Professor Henry Cadbury-Brown, RA (left), and Mr Norman Rosenthal as the paintings were being prepared for the Royal Academy exhibition that opens on Saturday.

Some sinks gather shrimps, while others remain dry

Wales wants better water on tap

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

With the approach of winter, now that the summer monsoon season is drawing to an end, the Government is being asked to consider establishing a water consumers' council for Wales.

The request comes from the Welsh Consumer Council which says it is powerless to deal with water charges in its present form.

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Date set for nuclear waste appeal

By Our Arts Reporter
By Our Planning Reporter

A public inquiry will begin on October 28 into appeals by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority against the refusal of Northumberland County Council to permit exploratory drilling in two areas of the Cheviot Hills.

In July last year the energy authority named 15 areas of Britain where it wished to carry out boring to determine whether the geological structure was suitable for the disposal of nuclear waste.

Local council reaction has generally been suspicious. So far permission for drilling has been granted only in Caithness, Scotland.

A listener had suggested that tape recorders should carry a 10p tax and transistor radios a 5p levy. Sir Ian said he had some suspicion that the Gov-

Corporation may seek tax on video tape recorders

By Our Arts Reporter

The BBC wants the Government to tax sound and video tape recorders so that money can be ploughed back into making the programmes people are taping at home without paying for radio, the only way is at the point of sale of the set.

The question of taping was very important because people were increasingly video-taping BBC programmes and not paying anything in copyright.

That move to explore ways of improving the BBC's finances was explained yesterday by Sir Ian Treharne, the Director-General, when he answered questions from listeners in the Radio 4 Tuesday Call programme. "Whether the Government will consider it remains to be seen."

A listener had suggested that tape recorders should carry a 10p tax and transistor radios a 5p levy. Sir Ian said he had some suspicion that the Gov-

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Water chief
£1.119 billion
Cricket pavilion
Hated building

EC refrains from condemning army takeover in Turkey

Michael Hornsby
Sept 16

European Community foreign ministers today "noted with concern" recent developments in Turkey and called on the army to return to democratic rule.

But they carefully refrained from condemning last week's coup by the Turkish army.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and his EEC colleagues noted the assurances by army leaders that basic institutions would be restored and that rights would be restored.

They expressed "the hope" that "these declarations will soon be put into full effect in this frame of mind".

Ministers' brief statement said, "that the community condemns its cooperation with Turkey". In other words, there is to be no further commercial and political links with Ankara for the time being.

It is in contrast to the treatment of Greece by the colonels' coup there.

It reflects the view of the army's intervention as "some extent justified political chaos" in Turkey that it could help to ease the situation and the growth of anti-Western forces.

On Sept 17, the Foreign Secretary, who accompanied Lord Carrington to Brussels, said last night: "But when you have 24 political killings a day and you have spent five months trying to elect a president, then democracy does not appear to be working very well."

Just how long the EEC is prepared to give the Turkish Army leaders to redeem their promises of an early return to civilian rule remains for the moment a closely guarded secret.

The EEC also issued a statement expressing "grave concern" about the situation in Lebanon. It said that anything that infringed "the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Lebanon would have the most serious repercussions for that country and for the entire region".

Coup casts gloom over Cyprus peace talks

Our Correspondent
Sept 16

Long-stalled Cyprus peace resumed here yesterday after a break of 13 amid increased unease created by the military coup in Turkey.

Hugo Cobbo, the Argentinian acting as the representative of Dr Kurt Waldheim, United Nations Secretary-General, under whose auspices the talks are being staged, addressed the British sources had said that the final state would express "understanding" for the reasons which

motherland (Cyprus) as an integral part of Turkey".

The reference to Cyprus as an integral part of the mainland caused considerable anxiety among Greek Cypriot official circles.

Observers believe that whatever results may emerge will be slow in coming because of the procedure adopted. The representatives of the two sides will meet only once a week, tackling only one of four major themes at each meeting.

The four themes are: the re-establishment of Venetia, the Greek Cypriot tourist sector of Famagusta that has been a ghost city since the Turkish invasion; the promotion of goodwill and mutual confidence; and the constitutional aspects; and the territorial aspects of the problem.

The viewpoints of the two sides on the last two issues are as far apart as ever. The Turkish side insists on the recognition of the de facto partition brought about by the invasion.

The Greek Cypriot side has conceded the establishment of a binational federation but wants a strong central government in a unified state with freedom of movement and settlement anywhere in the island guaranteed for all citizens, including the refugees.

They do not expect quick and taking into account the experience of the magnitude of the involved in the peace, "we have to be cautious," Cobbo told reporters in courtyard of the Ledra Hotel where the talks are taking place.

The Turkish side insist on an even deeper over the talks particularly a result of a message from President Kenan Evren, the chief of state to his Cypriot leadership that the Turkish will continue to guarantee happiness and well-being of the daughter of the

French Government avoids leader's fast-track economic measures

Robert Schull
Sept 16

French Government, led by Andréas van Agt, the Democratic Prime Minister, has no intention with election nine months taking necessary but economic measures, broadly speaking, was the message.

The Government has not gone beyond an appeal to employers and the trade unions to strive for a minimum wage increase of 6 per cent in 1981, instead of the general average of 8 per cent. The Government does not say what it will do if its goal is not achieved.

The leaders of the Industrial Workers Union, one of the biggest and most influential unions in the country, have suggested that a drop in purchasing power should be accepted in return for more jobs.

The union leaders fear, without justification, that otherwise unemployment by the end of this year could rise from the present level of 260,000 to 300,000.

The comments of the Council of State, the Government's highest advisory body on the Budget, have been made public. In the speech in the speech "comes moderation", each the Government

emphasized that in the coming year there would virtually be no economic growth (in the budget a growth of 0.5 per cent was predicted) and that there were no financial means available to boost the economy and thus employment. On the other hand, increasing demands were being made by both the public and the private sectors.

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One has to have lived some time in France and to have experienced the monolithic conservatism and centralization of the French education system to appreciate the revolutionary character of this reform.

Another of this year's innovations is a return to the teaching of history and to old fashioned arithmetic. This should avoid students mistaking Australia for a railway station.

The old system—so central

ized that a minister could pull his watch out of his pocket and say that at that time students in every sixth form in France were studying such and such a chapter of such and such a standard text—is now gone forever.

M. Christian Beullac, the Minister of Education, emphasized in an interview today that he was in favour of a real decentralization. "This ministry is unmanageable from the centre," he said. "It amounts to a concern of one million persons, more than General Motors."

The beginning of school term is being marked by the virtual extinction of the teachers' unions, which has become an annual event. Strikes have been called for next Thursday in

some of the academic regions. In Paris, a stoppage will be staged on September 25.

But there are deep divisions on the desirability of strike action between those close to the Socialist Party and those with predominantly Communist sympathies. As a result, some 10 branches of the national teachers' union have called off their strike order.

Teachers' strikes, student unrest and the decline in standards, have accentuated the migration from the state schools—once regarded as at least as good academically—as to the private schools, which take in about two million children.

Deserted state schools for private ones. In 1979-80 there were 133,000.

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The old system—so central



Professor Anthony Blunt arrives in Rome. He went to an unknown destination.

Danes claim money from Britain

From Christopher Follett
Copenhagen, Sept 16

The Danish Fisheries Association yesterday presented the British Embassy here with a claim for a maximum 187m kroner (£14m) in compensation for catches lost during Denmark's dispute with Britain over fishing rights in the North Sea which has been going on for two years.

According to a British Embassy official, the Danish claim, which takes the form of an 11-page document, will be forwarded to London today. Although the Esbjerg-based Fisheries Association specifies no precise figure, it puts expected compensation at between 160m and 187m kroner, with a warning that if Britain does not meet its claim, the matter will be taken to the Danish courts.

The claim follows the unilateral British ban on fishing in the North Sea, which is situated in British waters off the east coast of Scotland, and the banning of fishing in the area on conservation grounds in 1978.

The area was one of the most vital fishing grounds for Denmark's industrial fishing fleet and the Danish Fisheries Association puts losses due to the past two seasons' ban as high as 400m kroner.

The Danish claim is for less than half this amount because its fishing fleet was able to make up for its losses.

The British restrictions were ruled illegal by the European Court in Luxembourg earlier this summer.

If no agreement is reached, the dispute will go to arbitration.

At a ministerial talk held here last week Britain and Denmark reported having made progress on a solution to the dispute. The solution is thought to comprise a formula allowing Denmark to fish out in very deep waters only.

The Danish Fisheries Association has been active in the Peronist movement. One of their conditions for the release of the prisoners was that a number of French newspapers carried full-page articles of their claims.

Signor Beaufré-Baudmont was said to have been tried by a tribunal of workers for complicity in the prison break and for pillaging the Thion World.

The Fiat executive had spent part of his career working in Brazil and Argentina.

The Spanish Government

Defendants absent in kidnap trial

From Ian Murray
Paris, Sept 16

The trial of six people accused of having carried out one of the most notorious kidnappings in France in recent years opens tomorrow—but none of the defendants is actually in custody or even in France.

They are all in Spain, where they were arrested in July, 1977, a fortnight after they had released their victim, Signor Luciano Revelli-Beaumont, the former director of Fiat-France.

Three-quarters of the £850,000 ransom which had been paid over has now been recovered, but the French Government failed in its attempts to get

the kidnappers extradited.

The trial follows the release of the six men, and the French authorities brought cases against three people who had helped to negotiate the release. They were M. Albert Chambon, a former French Ambassador, Señor Hector Villalon, a former adviser to the late President Perón, and Señor Hector Aristy, a former minister of the Dominican Republic. All three were acquitted.

The Spanish Government turned down the extradition demand on the grounds that the Peronists had acted for political motives. The French

authorities brought cases against three people who had helped to negotiate the release. They were M. Albert Chambon, a former French Ambassador, Señor Hector Villalon, a former adviser to the late President Perón, and Señor Hector Aristy, a former minister of the Dominican Republic. All three were acquitted.

This makes it the world's largest known flying bird," said Dr Kenneth Campbell, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

The remains are of a bird that measured 11ft from beak to tail, weighed between 160 and 179lb and, when standing, could have looked a six-foot-tall man directly in the eye.

"This makes it the most spectacular creature," said Dr Campbell.

Dr Campbell said the biggest flying bird alive today was the Andean condor, a soaring creature with 10ft wingspan that can weigh about 35lb.

In the latest discovery, about a dozen bones from one giant bird were recovered at a site about 100 miles west of Buenos Aires by Dr Eduardo Tonui and Dr Rosendo Pascual of La Plata Museum.

Although no one knows exactly what teratorns looked like, all living birds' bones most resemble those of condors, he said.—AP

Alsace court rules in favour of dismissed parish priest

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Sept 16

A traditionalist priest has won the first round of a legal battle against his bishop and the French Ministry of the Interior in his efforts to keep his parish in Alsace.

In 1978 Father Jean Siegel was dismissed from his parish of Thaldringen by Leon Eichinger, mgr, the Bishop of

Strasbourg, after he had occupied a church in Strasbourg and celebrated a traditional

Mass.

A Strasbourg tribunal said the Ministry of the Interior acted wrongly in dismissing the parish council which elected

Father Siegel and paid him £1,000.

The court ruled only on laws affecting state employees, ignor-

ing canon law.

Some of the academic regions in Paris, a stoppage will be staged on September 25.

OVERSEAS.

Israel says group of detained Arabs committed eight murders in occupied West Bank

From Moshe Brillant
Tel Aviv, Sept 16

The Israeli Military Command today announced that security forces have arrested a group of Arabs allegedly responsible for eight terrorist outrages, including the murder last May of six Jews on their way home from Sabbath eve services in the tomb of the Hebrew patriarchs in Hebron.

An official announcement said the group captured this weekend included four men who allegedly confessed to attacking the worshippers from a rooftop with Kalashnikov assault rifles, a Karl Gustav submachine gun, hand grenades and an RPG rocket launcher.

Six alleged accomplices, said to have sheltered and fed the men since the attack were also arrested.

A camera seized from the couple who also recovered the gun used in the Hebron killing, named as Muhammad Shabik, 28, was said to have confessed to the murder of the couple, according to an official Army statement.

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Mr Ola Ullsten, Sweden's Foreign Minister, talks about his country's problems and prospects

Swedish sweet reasonableness may yet prevail

Has the Swedish model of a modern European state been broken beyond repair? In May this year the country was paralysed by the worst industrial troubles since the general strike of 1909, and there have been serious economic difficulties throughout the four years of non-socialist government that have followed the end of 44 years of Social Democratic dominance in 1976.

During this four-year period there have been two coalition administrations and one minority Liberal government; and Mr Ola Ullsten, the present Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, has held high office in all of them. He is now leader of the Liberal Party and was Prime Minister of the Liberal administration that governed for a year before the general election last September.

No Swedish politician is therefore in a better position to assess the experience of those four years. Does he, after all, like his wife, in the British Liberal Party conference on Saturday, that "non-socialists cannot run the country on the traditional basis of harmony and sweet reason"? Can the trade unions be handled only by a Social Democratic government?

"It is true," he responded, "that we have had the very modest results in 1977-78, in accordance to the national wage settlement of under 2 per cent negotiated in that year. This was a perfectly fair rejoinder, so far as it went, but Mr Ullsten did

not pretend that it was an answer to all anxieties. On the contrary, he acknowledged that the government had made two mistakes in the spring. The first was in offering a package deal—including a price and rent freeze, tax reductions and food subsidies—if the unions would accept a very small wage increase. This failed to influence the bargaining but left the government in a difficult position when the settlement was at a higher figure than they had had in mind. The second mistake was in then going ahead nonetheless with much of the package deal, which was more than the economy could afford in those circumstances. So the government has had to claw much of it back again.

The settlement lasts only until the end of the year and negotiations for next year will soon begin. Mr Ullsten offered no easy optimism on the outcome. That would depend on the maturity of the unions and the government. There will be a meeting on Friday with the unions at which the government will attempt to present the economic picture as it is. This will not exactly be a negotiation with the unions, but ministers should. Mr Ullsten believes try to make a moderate proposal, possibly by pointing out not only the bleakness of the economic scene but also the tax reforms and public expenditure plans they have in mind. Both sides should mean business in the sense of being prepared to adjust their position in



Mr Ola Ullsten: pragmatic.

This sounds very much like the German system of Concurred Action, and is akin to what a number of Conservative politicians would like to see developed in Britain. It is also very much in accordance with the traditional Swedish faith in dialogue. But the people representing the different interests—especially groups that are not necessarily favourable to them and trust them to behave reasonably. The only trouble is that the Swedes did not behave reasonably in May. Nobody in Britain can afford to feel superior about that, but it does suggest that the Swedes have descended

to the same level as the rest of us. Can there be confidence that they will behave reasonably now, that the government's new approach will work? Mr Ullsten candidly acknowledged that he had no idea.

Any Swedish government would have had difficulty over the past few years. The problems faced by non-socialist administrations have to a large extent been sheer bad luck, in the sense that the Social Democrats left office just before the storm signals appeared. Mr Ullsten goes further and blames recent crises on the profligacy of their economic policies before 1976—though one must add that one could say in those years' defect the non-socialist parties urged a more restrictive approach.

Has it really been made any difference having non-socialists in office? Or has it been simply a change of faces but not of policies? Mr Ullsten confessed that the suggestion was not entirely unfair, but he went on to speak of differences in attitudes. The present government has increased taxes: the Social Democrats were to have done so even more, and more recently.

But I had the impression that this kind of comment to be expected of a politician about his opponents, had almost to be extracted from him. What seemed to flow more spontaneously was indicative of the man and of Swedish politics.

We are not representing two nations in Sweden. There is a very

solid measure of unity, of sharing of values, even though we must not brush all ideological disputes under the carpet.

These remarks illustrated both the Swedish instinct to find agreement wherever possible and the uneasy nature of the present coalition of Liberals, Centre Party and Conservatives. His comments were, as he freely accepted, an implied criticism of his Conservative partners. But then, "I don't think a coalition of this kind ever can be cohesive". There was "no other choice, just now", and "we shall have to muddle through at least until the next election".

This is not due until 1982, but what then? That would depend upon the policies of the individual parties. He offered no guarantee that the coalition would be continued. Might the Liberals form a coalition with the Social Democrats then after the next election? He could foresee no conditions for that at this time, but he did not specifically rule it out either.

These were the cool, deliberate words of a pragmatic politician, concerned to manage the country's affairs in the most practical fashion. It was not the tone of an evangelist of an idealised social reformation. As I listened to him, I could not help reflecting that that seemed a long way off in Sweden.

Geoffrey Smith

Business is booming at Bookshop-on-Wye

Hay-on-Wye, known for some years as the home of the world's largest secondhand bookshop, has now also spawned a clutch of independent booksellers to create a mecca for the acquisitive bibliophile. As well as Mr Richard Booth's original massive empire, housed in a selection of properties around the town, about 10 other people have set up alongside, some dealing generally, others specializing in areas such as religion, French literature, music, poetry, natural history and the stage. As a result, books are putting Hay on the traveller's map in the same sense as London's Hatton Garden or those who are interested in jewellery and Portobello Road is known for its antique and bric-a-brac stalls.

It may strike some people as strange that many Welsh towns of about 4,500 inhabitants, which used to serve the agricultural community, have found such a different role serving those who love to browse, read and live their shelves. However, Mr Booth, who began the transformation nearly 20 years ago when he set up in business, says emphatically: "It's totally logical and a good idea to have a town full of books."

Having set up his vast organization, which now buys in more than a million volumes a year and sells slightly under that figure, he has actually encouraged competition from



Mr Richard Booth, whose vision transformed Hay-on-Wye.

former employees, outsiders and indigenous residents. Booth's of course, is still the biggest. Only last month, he opened a huge new central outlet called "The Library" in a building which used to sell agricultural machinery and other farming requirements.

In addition, he still has the former Plaza cinema, a former workshop, complete with worn brass strips to protect the brown linoleum on the stairs, a stone building near the castle, where every volume costs just 30p, sheds up near his home full of periodicals and a print shop, which counts in his business tally, if not so directly

concerned with books. To the first five then, must be added two generalists and nine specialists, most of whom sell other books as well. One does binding, too. There is also a retired man, who advertises his services in the book shop business and is prepared to comb the often dusty shelves round the town for special requests.

Mr Booth believes about 110 jobs in Hay relate to books and hopes this will more than double in the next few years as still more bookish enterprises cash in on the town's growing reputation. Already there can be no doubt that other local traders benefit from the regular invasion of British, continental and even Japanese bookworms, many of whom combine walks on the local Black Mountains with equally exhausting mental exertion as they sift through thousands of titles a day.

"The chief industry is books. There's never been a place like it," says Mr Michael White, the first person to catch onto the idea that more booksellers and more books should be to everybody's advantage. He was running a shop in London and visited Hay as a buyer.

A bookseller, says Mr White, tends to be acquainted rather than know every page of their books. "He starts a book and somebody comes in and buys it. He is an expert on the first chapter," he adds.

There's a giant who strides this shop. His name is Customer," Mr White says with a laugh. "You have got to be all things to all men. They want a particular book. They have travelled a long distance. We can only say 'We haven't got it.' They burst into tears. They think the further they've come, the more likely the book is to be there." A man in shorts with two boys comes in searching for Alexander Dumas in English or French. He has got all the ones Mr White has in stock upstairs but fortunately does not burst into tears.

Mr Geoffrey Aspin up the street specializes in French and rarer earlier books and arrived last September. He came for a day trip after a gap of eight years. had lunch with Mr Booth, saw a shop for sale and within two hours had agreed to buy. A lecturer at Liverpool University, he was already in the book business, having first started as collector.

His customers have followed him to Hay and now attracts special visitors, most recently by a group from Oxford. The French and the English collector have very different tastes, he says. The Englishman is more concerned with getting the text he is looking for at a tolerable price. The French are fanatics about condition, will wait a lifetime for

the perfect specimen and then be prepared to pay a small fortune.

Mr White admits they spend the winter buying books from each other (they have to make their money in the summer) and another bookseller talks of the vultures who come down to Hay, look for specific things in their field and then beat a retreat. Sometimes outside booksellers also carry off remainder stock, which is bound to accumulate, given, in particular, Mr Booth's propensity to acquire whole sets of 18th-century books in 20,000 books bought in America, three or 4,000 books in Britain," says Mr Booth. Only recently, three container loads arrived from Minneapolis and other places in the United States with about 160,000 volumes.

In talking, 42-year-old Mr Booth starts from the idea to the next and back again with speed and bewildering mental dexterity. "I take the view very strongly that everybody wants books", he says and launches into a tirade against bureaucracy which includes his belief that the introduction of public libraries led to a lowering of the quality of books. "An odd phenomenon," he adds.

He is writing a series of rural travel pamphlets, one of which recently advocated the abolition of the Welsh Tourist Board, another concentrating on the need to bring back the horse.

Judy Hiltman

Bernard Levin

The man who made me drunk on Shakespeare



Sir Donald Wolfit: a garrulous feast.

be taken practically verbatim from the original.)

Wolfit was an extraordinary actor, one of the most extraordinary of my time. At his best, which meant, almost without exception, when he was being directed by somebody else, in somebody else's company, he was very good indeed, not much below the Olivier-Richardson-Guinness-Scofield level. The trouble was that he was consumed with a professional vanity so stupendous

that he could not bear to have near him anyone who might take him from one microwatt of the limelight, and therefore filled his company with some—no, practically all—of the most dreadful grotesques who ever shambled on to a stage. (There were occasional exceptions, as for instance an interesting actor called Anthony Eustrel, but Wolfit's almost always ensured that their roles were so subordinated to his that they had little chance to achieve anything in their own right.)

He professed a great veneration for Shakespeare, but in practice treated it as just another well-known existing art for the greater glory of Wolfit. He butchered the texts to keep himself in the middle of the stage; his Hamlet ended on "Good night, sweet Prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest", his Othello with "No way but this, killing myself to die upon a kiss"; and his Twelfth Night with an elaborate dumb-show of Malvolio returning and being reconciled to those upon whom

he has sworn to be revenged. Whole scenes were excised if they did not include Sir, and other characters' speeches gutted if they took the attention away from him for too long; his entrance was accompanied by the precipitate flight of the rest of the cast upstairs, lest the audience should allow their attention to stray in the wrong direction; and worse beside any player who lingered on his cue. Wolfit was, in short, the last of the Victorian actor-managers, and in some ways he went even further than they did. He would never, for instance, defer to a Hamlet, Ophelia or Shylock by saying, "They were the Dane," "the Moor" and "the Jew"; and the ornate language in which he would thank the audience at the end of the performance was the kind of thing that Shaw was already jeering at in the 1890s.

And yet there must be tens of thousands like me, whom he introduced to Shakespeare in performance and who, like me, bless him for it even as I smile. In those days there was

the Old Vic, still in St Martin's Lane and comprising what may have been the greatest theatrical company ever assembled: it included Olivier, Richardson, Guinness, Sybil Thorndike and Hugh Casson, Pamela Brown, Joyce Redman, George Ralph, Peter Copley, Margaret Leighton and as many more of them like as the stage of the Albery (*cf. devon>New*) would hold. There was also John Gielgud at the Haymarket, with Leslie Banks and Fay Compton, among others. But these, though they included Shakespeare in their repertoire, did so as only one play each among many. Like the National Theatre today, although some of the Shakespearean productions I saw there (chief among them Gielgud's last *Hamlet*) remain among the finest, I have never seen them they were not a substitute for a full Bardic diet, and a fortnight in Stratford-on-Avon every few months being beyond my means, the next best thing was Wolfit.

Wolfit took the old Bedford Music-Hall in Camden Town

Wolfit provided that me to begin to understand why this man was the great playwright who has ever, as I had already begun, been the greatest. Obviously, in those days he could not have said what writing with the produce with most of the acting, the dramatic construct, the matters from the dress rehearsal. All I could do sit open-mouthed and in the lines, and then go declaiming what I had heard.

That is what Donald V. megalomaniac old dame he undoubtedly was, go adolescent in the 1940s, that is why I stir uneasily to hear him compared to *Old Vic Macbeth*. For, in the comparison itself, the comparison must be the Old Vic, than Wolfit. I shall have to go and see for it. But the uproar has rung me of where I first learned Shakespeare properly, although I grew out of it afterwards, and offended him unforgivably. I am certain, though, that I could not have acquired it from the printed page alone, or even from the book together with the star-filled productions elsewhere. It was the garrulous feast on Shakespeare which gave me.

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SCOTTISH DIARY

A tremor of a breeze over Gaelic

Gwynfor Evans has caused quite a shuffling of feet in the Scottish Gaeltacht. His resolve to fast to death in support of the Welsh language sharply underlines the difference in attitude of Welsh speakers and the Gaels.

His appeal to the Scottish National Party was that of the head of one nationalist group to another, although the SNP, unlike Plaid Cymru, has never made Gaelic a keystone of its political argument. The Scots prefer oil and economics to the emotions' tribalism of language, and if Mr Evans was a Gael he would indeed have much to fast about.

An Comunn Gàidhealach, the Gaelic Language Society, has argued gently over the years for a full and proper recognition of the language. The odd roadside sign has been daubed, the BBC has agreed to repeat its excellent Gaelic lessons and the Western Isles Council, representing the only part of Scotland where Gaelic approaches the Welsh ratio of native speakers, has at last embarked on a full bilingual policy. There is even a transla-

tion service in English and Gaelic in the council chamber. In addition a film company, a publisher and a theatre group all produce work in Gaelic. Run Rig, a rock group, performs in Gaelic. On Skye, where a college teaches the language, Ian Noble, a convert to the Gaelic cause, argues that the language and the culture it represents are as precious and worthy of conservation as any historical building or painting.

Apparently one of the cost tails of Mr Evans' campaign for a Welsh television channel as an independent campaign to preserve Gaelic as a living language has been launched by a pressure group called SSI, which means to persuade the BBC and independent television stations to increase Gaelic broadcasting from the present 30 minutes to 12 hours a week.

But the fact remains that support for the language in Scotland is very patchy. In Shetland, for example, the opening of a Chinese restaurant in Lerwick means the islands probably have more Cantonese than Gaelic speakers.

Gaelic might well envy the relative strength of Welsh and the concessions Welsh speakers have already wrung from the Government. Colin Spencer, education director of An

Comunn complained: "The English-speaking majority does not fully understand that the right to one's language is among the rights recognized internationally by the United Nations and the European Commission of Human Rights. People struggling to ensure that their minority language survives are as much dissidents as those behind the Iron Curtain for whom there is great regard and respect."

But angry assertiveness is not historically in the temperament of the Gael. A blessing for their character but a curse for their language.

Quango hunt

Ton jobs are vacant in Scotland's two powerful quangos. The Scottish Development Agency is looking for a replacement for Lewis Robertson as chief executive at a salary of £25,000, and in the Highlands Sir Kenneth Alexander is anxious to hand over the chairmanship of the Highlands and Islands Development Board to take over as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Stirling University.

Interviews for Mr Robertson's successor have begun with headhunters tracking down the right man for the job, but in the Highlands there is no word

of any taker for the congenial £21,750 post. The latest whisper is that Russell Johnson, Liberal MP for Inverness, could be the man. He has the status, expertise and commitment to the Highlands. As an MP he has a strong personal vote in Skye, where he was born, but because of boundary changes Skye will be detached from his constituency at the next general election.

A by-election would be fought on the present boundaries, giving the Liberals the stronger chance.

But if he wanted the job, would Mrs Thatcher offer it? The Scottish Office felt sure there were examples of governments appointing individuals from other parties to head quangos but could not actually think of one. Much might depend on whether the Government felt that Mr Johnston's political territory could be turned Tory.

A merging of two other quangos with headquarters in Edinburgh is under way to meet the changing shape of the fishing industries. The Herring Industry Board and the White Fish Authority have shared offices in Sea Fisheries House, Young Street for several years. In that time the herring industry has declined to a point where it barely needs a board

to support it and the WFA has divided its work first with the home industry and secondly with some lucrative overseas consulates.

Charles Meek, the WFA chairman, says that overseas development work has taken British fisheries expertise to 40 countries and earned something like £7m that has helped support services to the British industry at the next general election.

"We don't yet know what the structure of the new organization will be but the Government is bound to be thinking about direct representation from all sections of the industry. I sympathize with that in principle but it will be very difficult to achieve."

The 250 WFA and HIB staff have lived with uncertainty for a long time and a decision about the future is hoped for early next year.

Nuclear fall-out

In Scotland, the antonym for Harg, Scram and Con is Fright. The pro-nuclear group exists to counter the attacks on the nuclear industry by the Highlands Anti-Nuclear Group, the Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace and the Campaign to Oppose Nuclear Dumps. With plutonium shipments soon to start between

Dounreay and Windscale, Prong is simply because more than 2,000 people in the area work at the Dounreay experimental establishment, where Prong has its base and where the latest nuclear scares have been reported.

"It is sad that we are always on the defensive," always counter-acting claims made by these other groups, but we do try to make it clear there is another side to the argument," said Bill Brown, secretary of the pro-group, who has worked at Dounreay for 22 years.

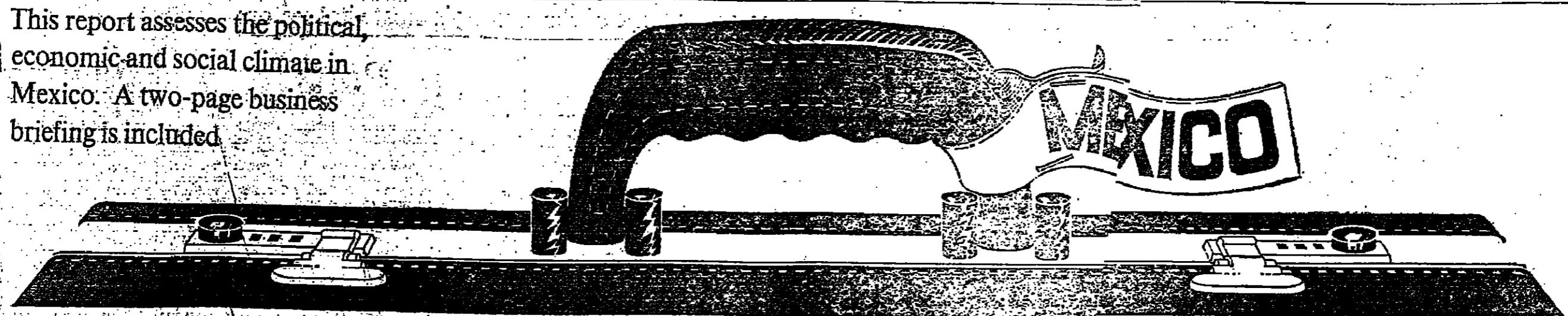
"Some people in the area are against nuclear energy but they are so few and far between that Harg and Scram have difficulty in recruiting anyone."

Prong sees its task as educational, overcoming fear bred from ignorance. Nuclear energy came into the world with a destructive bang from which it has not recovered.

Dropping in

Showering from the sky on Orkney in November will be a contingent of SAS soldiers whose arterial exercise is seen by the local Labour Party as "crazy". Bob Smith, the secretary, complained: "We have asked what they are going to do and they refuse to tell us. There

This report assesses the political, economic and social climate in Mexico. A two-page business briefing is included.



Michael Frenchman looks under the sombrero at one of the six richest oil countries in the world

The sleeping giant awakens



drilling rig on the outskirts of Villa Hermosa, capital of Tabasco.

Photograph: Ed Mullis

Four-year development plan like 'dog without claws'

ts of Mexico's ambitious four-year industrial plan have indeed since the plan was introduced last year. One critic says it could need up to 50 per cent to be even partially successful. A leading social sciences and humanities university professor says it is

like a dog that has no claws, long to scratch itself, he believes, the party's political organization is deficient.

but of Mexico's forces is either undivided or has no work. Government wants to up growth internal products from 8 per cent to about 10 per cent by 1982 and to hold it at that throughout the 1980s, thus leaving room for more.

Manufacturing industries opposed to supply about 10 per cent of the 5 per cent increase in jobs. The Mexico industry will correspond to fish-

ing and agriculture. "The absence of a list of priorities deformed our industry in the past," Señor José Andrés Oreyza, the Minister of National Properties and Industrial Development, says. "A clear example is the location of certain industrial activities, especially those connected with manufacturing industries. They are basically situated in municipalities near by and in neighbouring towns. Their

growth is a result of inertia of a vicious circle that converts the benefits of a company into a burden for society to bear."

According to Señor Oreyza, the Valley of Mexico, where the Mexico City metropolitan area sprawls and houses some 16 million people, is responsible for 50 per cent of the gross value of Mexico's industrial goods.

His ministry aims to reduce this to 40 per cent by 1982 when President Pinochet's six-year administration leaves office.

Over the years both state governments strove to attract new industry. They spent considerable sums of money on roads and promotion, yet did not receive the most favourable treatment offered by the plan. The Mexico industry, which will correspond to fish-

ing and agriculture, "The levels of fiscal and energy price incentives in each one of Mexico's 31 states, the National Heavy Industry Chamber, a private organization of manufacturing industrialists, says: "Industrial services are being wasted because not enough thought has been put into the plan. There is a need for energy supplies and roads if some areas given most favourable treatment in the plan are to be developed industrially. It is difficult to improvise if you do not have the proper infrastructure."

In Tlaxcala a spokesman for the state delegation of the National Heavy Industry Chamber states: "The plan is going to take something like 50 years to solve a certain amount of the problems we have in Mexico. In the centre of the country we have a large number of universities, technical schools and so on. People from such educational centres normally try to live in and around Mexico City. The Government is going to have to put in many facilities to keep people happy, when and if they go to the new areas."

Stephen Downer

Year increasing again—comparatively rare with an annual income in Latin America. Since the year of the 1911 revolution the Instituto Mexicano del Petróleo (IMPE) has reigned supreme over the market. If the PRI has reigned supreme over the market, the traditional token of the market is the Action Party (PAN).

Falkman, of the Pan American Chamber of Commerce, Portillo has attempted to make over future tourism policy continue to handicap the development of this vital and lucrative resource.

It is possible to found more parties—including the enthusiastic poorer communists, and socialist

unitarian—is to establish a more popular figure than his predecessor Luis Echeverría Alvarez, who failed to make

it into a chamber of deputies in 1976. There is now a more

resilient opposition in than

at any time in the past. Whether an opposition voice will actually prove influential in the political decision-making remains to be seen, but it will certainly create a useful safety valve for criticism.

Tourism is the medium term

which is earning him great respect as a champion of Third World affairs. One of

the first fruits of his efforts

has been the deal with Venezuela to provide oil for

the less fortunate countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

He has commanded great

respect at home and abroad for his policies because of his personality and the economic weight which his

country's oil wealth has pro-

vided. This can be seen especially in relations with the United States, which

have entered a new era.

Mexico refuses to be bullied

over such issues as gas pric-

ing by its northern neighbour which is its largest natural customer.

If forecasts prove correct

and the United States

still takes more than half

its energy needs from oil from Mexico during the 1980s, this will mean less

reliance, if not none at all,

on Middle East Once

sources. As a result the

whole balance of United

States-Middle East relations will inevitably change

still further. Another important effect, pointed out by the current issue of *Lloyd's Shipping Economist*, will be important changes in the pattern of world shipping. These will be caused by an increase in the overall oil and gas shipping needs of the United States and an increase in demand by the Far East and Europe.

The United States has

already had to accept the

difficulties in dealing with

the gas price rise and the question of illegal immigrants from Mexico—more than a million arrests were made last year. The "petro-

peso" has produced a degree

of confidence (which might be mistaken for arrogance) in Mexican relations with Americans and some other visitors from abroad. To

some extent a parallel can

be drawn between the attitudes of many Mexicans today and those in the new oil rich countries of The Gulf in the late 1960s and early 1970s. As some Mexicans say tongue in cheek, "Who knows? It may not be long before we get Texaco back". Certainly, as the sleeping giant gets in his feet, there will be some surprises.



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Stephen Downer and Alan Robinson examine the prospects for some of the country's most vital sectors.

Steel

The Mexican Steel Industry's which produces two-thirds of Mexico's steel, was announced its intention to restructure in 1978, with the merging of the three increase production by 170 state-run steel giants: Altos per cent over the next 10 years, pushing Mexico's de Monterrey and Las steel capacity to 24 million tons in the process.

They report to the state steel agency, Siderar, of which Señor Jorge Lepen Gay is the director. He will be \$23,800m, according to the commission. The move reflects the country's industrial growth and emphasizes the inadequacy of its steel production, which will be about seven million tons this year.

Whether the promised investment will arrive in time to save Mexico from importing large quantities of steel only the year will tell. One report, prepared for the United States Government in 1977, and based on figures by the Mexican Iron and Steel Chamber, stated that if expansion of the steel industry as a whole were not under way by 1979, "Mexico will become a heavy importer of steel by 1982."

A step in the right direction to overcome the shortage of steel pipe production is this week's agreement with Japan to build two steel mills worth £155m. Labour, administrative and technical problems have beset the Las Truchas steel complex in Michoacan, which cost \$1,000m with British Steel Corporation technology, and inaugurated in November 1975. It is among the world's most modern steel plants and, according to Mexican officials, has the potential to become Latin America's biggest producer by the 1990s.

The plant was the main prestige project of former President Luis Echeverria's administration, which ended late 1976. But, despite having an installed capacity of 1,360,000 tons, Las Truchas, which is on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, produced only 560,000 tons in 1978. Last year it did little better, producing some 700,000 tons. Production is expected to have reached 1,200,000 tons by the end of this year.

Revaluation and economic crisis, together with the priority of the Government of President José López Portillo of developing Mexico's oil industry, delayed the start of Las Truchas' second stage until this summer. The public steel industry, S.D.

Construction

The construction industry in Mexico is expected to grow by at least 20 per cent this year, and most of the industry's directors say positive. They have never been.

"The industry improved a great deal, is probably at its highest in history," Señor Jesus Hernandez, manager of one of 14 construction companies run by the Ballesteros organization, is a figure.

Government heavy and light industrial building projects had 113,900m pesos spent on them last year. This year the sum is 156,400m pesos, an increase of 37 per cent.

The fishing industry applied for 5,500m pesos for building in 1980. It got 5,000m pesos, which was still 161 per cent more than in 1979. Health and social security building projects received 13,800m pesos this year, 320 per cent more than installed all over last year.

At the end of August President Lopez Portillo announced ambitious plans for tourism and housing, including road works, construction companies including road improvement, finding it hard to keep up new underground rail lines, worth 6,000m pesos (\$262.7m) in the federal capital.

Mexico's cement firms are at present able to deliver only 70 per cent of demand, Señor Hernandez said, using a figure disputed by cement manufacturers.

"For some important government projects we have had to import cement. It comes from the United States, Colombia and Cuba.

When demand exceeds supply, Mexico gets steel for construction from Europe, Japan and Brazil. But it is not just cement and steel that are lacking. According to the latest figure provided by the national construction industry chamber, the industry grew by about 11.6 per cent in 1979, while plywood production increased 2.3 per cent.

Glass production increased by 0.33 per cent over 1978, a year when glass manufacturing shrank by 4.1 per cent. Corrugated steel rod production rose 8.7 per cent in 1979 compared with 1978. But in 1978 production went down 5.8 per cent against 1977. Cement production last year grew by 5.1 per cent compared to 1978's 11.6 per cent growth.

It is also a result of the greater employment of nationally produced goods, decreed by the Government, as a result of the economic recovery, which is transforming the country's industrial sector."

S.D.



A new refinery being built near Reforma in the state of Chiapas. Mexico now has the twelfth largest refining capacity in the world.

Ports

In communications, Mexico is on the verge of revolution. As a polluted and congested Mexico City fast approaches the condition of Canal, although not very hell-on-earth, the Government is seeking to move in future. Contractors will move industry and even some of its own departments will be given autonomy to manage their nation's ports. The major port is an old towards the sea involves one first dreams to be built, four large industrial and commercial ports, a plan that includes of a fifth port and extending all Mexico's programme for port expansion across the economic growth.

In the past, all forms of public sector investment of them led to Mexico the ports project in 1980-81 will be in the region of \$1,400m with another \$400m being poured by private sources. This year alone, about \$254m will be spent on the project.

In Señor Moretzumá Cid's view, the industrial ports will attract investment, industry and population away from the central plateau, and provide jobs for a burgeoning population. The present 70,000 inhabitants of the port town of Mazatlán, which is situated on a peninsula nesting among mountains, is a bowl of venom roofed by toxic clouds, and a bedlam of assorted din.

The industrial ports project implies the socio-economic and regional development of Mexico, according to its chief, Señor Julio Rodolfo Moretzumá Cid, the former Finance Secretary, whose title is Coordinator of Development Projects of the Presidency.

The ports will be built at Altamira, in the state of Tamaulipas, Laguna de Ostron, near the present port of Coatzacoalcos in Veracruz State, Lázaro Cárdenas, on the coast of Michoacan, which is the home of the vast Los Truchas steel complex, and Salina Cruz, which will be one end of the Amapa rail and road link across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Altamira is to be developed as the focus of the new industrial corridor, according to Señor Moretzumá Cid. Work is expected to start there in November. The site is close to the port of Mazatlán, which has reached saturation point and will be some what refurbished. Lázaro Cárdenas and Laguna de Ostron are seen as centres for heavy industry, while Salina Cruz will complement Laguna de Ostron as the ports of the trans-Pacific container traffic link. Work started in July at Lázaro Cárdenas and should begin some time next year at Salina Cruz and Laguna de Ostron.

The national railways are struggling to move grain imports of nearly 10 million tonnes this year.

Last year both the amount produced chose to the ports and at the northern border as unprogrammed imports clashed with unorganized exports. Grain and machinery piled up at the nation's ports and border entry points, warehouses were jammed with American trucks seemed to scatter and a general sense of unease pervaded.

At present about 18,000 United States freight trains are stuck in various parts of Mexico and, indeed, others expect to add anchor points to the various rail links in the basic system.

(Continued from page 1)

Walking along the tracks, started in 1960, a railway between government and the port sector with the state, is planned to reach by the end of this year.

At present about 18,000 United States freight trains are stuck in various parts of Mexico and, indeed, others expect to add anchor points to the various rail links in the basic system.

"What has been done so far is not even 5 per cent of the area with potential," Señor Edmundo González-Guerrero, the Mexican Mining Chamber's agent, says.

Mexico has about 200 mines, and five firms take the 1,900 mining passes: Industrias Bel, Industrial Minera, Minera Compania Minera, Compania Minera Fructuosa and Minera Fructuosa.

The industry reorganized itself after the passing of the Mexican Mining Law in 1973. Under the law, only cars and companies with at least 51 per cent of shares in the hand workmen are eligible to process silver and tin minerals. Foreign miners are prohibited from buying mining rights they are not allowed mining company partners or associates or share.

The Mexican share of capital of any mining company must be at least 6 per cent of the total capital.

Mexico produced 5,173,123,000 kg of gold in 1979, according to the Mexican Mining Chamber. Gold worth £1,333,123,000 (\$54,483,608). Silver production was £1,536,772,000, some £12,633,407,000 (\$535,829,140).

Non-ferrous metals produced in 1979 were: lead 1,732,455 tonnes; zinc 107,109 tonnes; zinc 76,372 tonnes; copper 1,451,163 tonnes; bismuth 1,772 tonnes; lead 1,772 tonnes; tin 537,299 tonnes; tungsten 2,522 tonnes; molybdenum 4,047,355 tonnes; manganese 1,710,059 tonnes.

Metals and mineralized rocks produced in 1979 were: mineral coal 2,155,435 tonnes; graphite 151,829 tonnes; barites 151,242 tonnes; talc 875,216 tonnes; fine white (known as kaolin) 1,203,316 tonnes; zinc 537,299 tonnes; tungsten 2,522 tonnes; molybdenum 4,047,355 tonnes; manganese 1,710,059 tonnes.

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Mining

Expansion of the mining sector in Mexico is insufficient to meet the country's needs, according to Señor Fermín Hierro, Under-Secretary of Mining and Energy of National Properties Industrial Development.

Although it increased by 6 per cent in 1979 in relation to the previous year, the rate of growth is slow, without inputs from copper and steel industry mining would not have increased at all. Production in 1979 was worth \$1,500m, which \$320m worth was ported.

Mexico is among the world's largest producers of silver, fluorite and celestine. According to the Mexican Mining Chamber, in 1979 increased its silver production by between 19 per cent and 21 per cent. A men said: "Output was 16,000 ounces more than last year. Competitors' production increased during the year, but Mexican output was 1,000 tonnes above the international prices of a month ago and increased further of others."

The nation's mines had 150,000 people and mining creation increased 3 per cent over 1978. When President Jose Lopez Portillo office at the end of 1976, the industry promised to expand by \$220m by the end of 1980 when his term ends, never, in August last, Señor Lopez Portillo set out to do this, spending further \$1,400m to encourage copper production to increase.

The 32,000m investment target is expected to be reached by the end of 1980. The additional investment is planned to create 26,000 jobs, the Mexican Mining Association says.

Developments in mining since mid-1979 include inauguration by Señor Lopez Portillo of the Ciudad Guzman mine in the mountains of Sonora in June.

At present about 18,000 United States freight trains are stuck in various parts of Mexico and, indeed, others expect to add anchor points to the various rail links in the basic system.

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About 20 per cent of the mine products will be exported to such countries as West Germany, Bulgaria, South Korea, China, United States and Japan.

The Government believes copper will be Mexico's second largest export commodity by after silver and zinc.

Mexico produces metals and minerals, the world's fourth largest producer of lead, bismuth, barite, arsenic and antimony. It occupies place in the production of zinc, mercury and silver.

Indeed, experts say that Mexico, a quarter the size of the United States, is as rich in minerals as Mexico and Canada, others expect to add anchor points to the various rail links in the basic system.

"What has been done so far is not even 5 per cent of the area with potential," Señor Edmundo González-Guerrero, the Mexican Mining Chamber's agent, says.

Mexico has about 200 mines, and five firms take the 1,900 mining passes: Industrias Bel, Industrial Minera, Minera Compania Minera, Compania Minera Fructuosa and Minera Fructuosa.

The industry reorganized itself after the passing of the Mexican Mining Law in 1973. Under the law, only cars and companies with at least 51 per cent of shares in the hand workmen are eligible to process silver and tin minerals. Foreign miners are prohibited from buying mining rights they are not allowed mining company partners or associates or share.

The Mexican share of capital of any mining company must be at least 6 per cent of the total capital.

Mexico produced 5,173,123,000 kg of gold in 1979, according to the Mexican Mining Chamber. Gold worth £1,333,123,000 (\$54,483,608). Silver production was £1,536,772,000, some £12,633,407,000 (\$535,829,140).

Non-ferrous metals produced in 1979 were: lead 1,732,455 tonnes; zinc 1,451,163 tonnes; copper 1,772 tonnes; tin 537,299 tonnes; tungsten 2,522 tonnes; molybdenum 4,047,355 tonnes; manganese 1,710,059 tonnes.

Metals and mineralized rocks produced in 1979 were: sand 1,732,455 tonnes; gravel 1,451,163 tonnes; talc 1,772 tonnes; tin 537,299 tonnes; tungsten 2,522 tonnes; molybdenum 4,047,355 tonnes; manganese 1,710,059 tonnes.

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The Meaning of a Sound Present

Almost a century ago, in 1890, our first company started its operations. Today, Valores Industriales, S.A. is one of the largest and most successful Mexican companies with leading entries in key segments of the economy. From food products, tourism and beverages to packaging, fisheries and banking.

Valores Industriales, S.A. stands for an unlimited confidence in Mexico, a carefully balanced diversification program, and an outstanding financial performance.

What we are today was our future 90 years ago. And we intend to have an even better future through our policies of further developing current fields of activities and searching for new and promising areas of endeavor.

VALORES INDUSTRIALES, S.A.
A sound present assures our future



Mexico City's roads are "clogged with heaving metal," by contrast, drivers in the queues at toll barriers, pictured above, have to wait patiently.

Agriculture

SAM to the rescue in the drive to bring food to the seriously undernourished

Sistema Alimentario Mexicano (SAM), the latest example of the Mexican government's voluminous planning drive, aims not only to make Mexico self-sufficient for basic foodstuffs but to ensure production for millions of Mexicans categorized as seriously undernourished. SAM came after eight sector plans produced in the past three years and is followed by four more. In addition, each of the states produced an integrated development plan; these documents are to fit more or less into the overall plan of economic development. The Government has been in office for three and five months of its four-year term. Not surprisingly, there are considerable discrepancies among officials. Some have an "optimistic" view of the situation and tend to play it down to lack of veracity, while others, nevertheless, see one of the crucial imports of SAM, since it is impossible to separate from the rest of the economy.

The Ministry of Agriculture is one of neglect and inefficiency. In 1980 agricultural livestock and fishing accounted for 16 per cent of the national product, employed 58 per cent of the labour force and accounted for 13 per cent of all exports. Last year these sectors fell 8.3 per cent of employed 33 per cent workers and contributed just 10 per cent of the total exports.

Rising on the land even faster than available jobs, Mass Job to the Cities did not industry and could not absorb the labour force between 1970 and 1976 the sector's output grew at 6 per cent a year, less than the rate of population growth. Better results in 1977 and 1978 and a very bad year in 1979, followed by proclamations that worse had been covered. However, in 1979 returns as agricultural production fell 3 per

cent in real terms and then have a very low almost 10 per cent in volume when the worst dry spell in 20 years of the latter are children.

The unfortunate 19 million people who started about 50 days late and the rains have not fallen to the accustomed quantity which contains such oddities.

Two million tons of grain were imported in 1979, and there are another seven million tons are being bought abroad this year. With barely a drop of rain in May and June, the grain imports could be at least as much as 1981. The anticipated transport system, which could not handle two million tons in 1979, is almost completely bogged down.

Weather permitting, the SAM planners seek to change the course of Mexican history with an unhappy characteristic of rural poverty, hunger, joblessness, the bleeding of young workers on migration, foodshortages.

The planners claim that 85 million Mexicans cannot obtain the requirements for a healthy life: 2,750 calories and 50 grams of protein a day. About 19 million of

the Mexican economy. The shopping basket will be distributed through the basic commodities agency (Conasupo) chain of Diconsa shops, which already charges about 35 per cent less than the average in rural areas. The cost of the basket is estimated at 13 pesos a head and it will be sold for about 9 pesos.

The plan calls for "compacting" small plots of land farmed at subsistence level to make them viable as production units as well as sources of jobs for landless peasants. Guaranteed prices for corn and beans will be boosted 20 per cent in real terms. SAM will get 25 per cent of the nation's oil earnings over the next three years.

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A shared risk fund will be set up so that crops planted in rainfall areas, where most basic crops are and where most scope is seen for improvement, will be compensated "equivalent to average annual yields" in case of loss or damage. Units producing more than the national average would earn bonuses through the fund.

Assumes for the 1980 target consumers will total more than \$100m, or 8 per cent of all subsidies to

A.R.

Trade

Exports on the up-and-up

Between January and May Mexican exports increased by 10.4 per cent and the nation's trade deficit fell by 38 per cent from the figures registered in the first five months of 1979, according to statistics published by the Foreign Trade Institute.

While imports from Britain—which totalled £136m in 1979—rose by 25 per cent in the first six months of 1980, Mexican exports to Britain soared by 270 per cent. In all of 1979 Mexico sold merchandise worth £26m to Britain. In the first six months of this year Mexican exporters earned £47.7m.

Last year Mexican exports to Britain consisted chiefly of non-ferrous metals, fol-

lowed by chemical and related products, food and live animals with copper and honey leading vegetables and fruit raw materials, crude fertilizers, minerals, machinery and transport equipment.

The structure of Mexican exports to Britain changed radically in the first half of this year, led by £3m worth of silver, followed by £8.1m in mineral fuels and lubricants, a first time export for Mexico. The other items were in the same order as in the previous year.

The pattern of Mexican exports to the European Economic Community was similar overall, although petroleum sales increased and there were more European customers for Mexican coffee. In spite of Mexico's frequent declarations that it is not intend to become a major exporter of oil, hydrocarbons exports account for 63 per cent of all exports in the first five months.

Imports of capital and intermediate goods rose sharply and there was evidence of growing inability to sell more manufactured products. Mexico's exports grew in terms of value by 2.63m, from \$2.405m to \$6.005m in the first five months of the year. Imports rose 53.3 per cent, from \$4.300m to \$6.500m. The trade deficit fell by 38 per cent to \$22.7m in the period from January to May.

"Oil, gas and derivatives accounted for 63 per cent of all exports at \$3.500m compared with 36.7 per cent in the first five months of 1979.

Income from hydrocarbons and petrochemicals grew by \$2.542m, a surprising rise of 20.2 per cent from the same period in the previous year.

Income from non-petroleum exports rose only 2.8 per cent from \$70m, from \$2.203m to \$2.262m. Agricultural exports went up by 7.3 per cent to \$55m and metal and mineral exports by 91.1 per cent to \$9.2m. However, the manufacturing sector registered a loss of 3.1 per cent of \$103.2m in terms of revenue.

White agricultural exports were rising imports in the same category rose even faster, causing the traditional surplus in the agricultural account to shrink from \$219.7m to \$22.3m this year. Increasing imports of corn, beans and sorghum cost \$141.5m in the first five months and accounted for 19.5 per cent of government imports.

Purchases of corn jumped from \$18m to \$153m, a rise of 786.7 per cent. Sorghum leaped from \$60m to \$122m, a rise of 864 per cent, while wheat purchases fell from \$84.3m to \$66.6m, a decrease of 24 per cent. In 1979 no purchases of beans were recorded, but this year the Government spent \$37m on beans from abroad.

The manufactured goods account showed a deficit of

A.R.

In-bond

British investment sought

In-bond processing in Mexico—so labelled by United States investors—is starting the attraction of more corporate money from other countries. Inved is the largest manufacturer of the border and medium-term prospects of moving to the Central and American markets.

In-bond programme up in 1966 and possess law plants can 10 per cent foreign. The maquiladoras are called in Spanish, machinery and raw materials on a temporary basis for processing and generally to the United States. There are more than 500 plants in on producing food, textiles, clothing, electronic parts, machinery and products. The bulk of these are located at the border with only 10 in the interior. Japan and Belgium in the field, some believe, may be based on the possible need for United Kingdom companies in the Mex-

ican market. Mexico is seeking the establishment of more such plants and is offering incentives to induce the necessary investment. Firms setting up in Inved by the most important of the various industries as priority areas by the various industrial development agencies can obtain fiscal incentives and a 30 per cent reduction in fuel costs. These zones include many existing ports and the sites chosen for the new industrial ports.

Mexican labour is cheaper than British labour and it is pointed out, British in-bond processing plants would promote more jobs in depressed areas in the United Kingdom, which could produce more than 35 per cent of Mexican materials.

A recent study by Miss Frances Higgins, of the Thames Polytechnic, for the British Chamber of Commerce in Mexico recommends that British firms considering setting up in-bond processing plants should think about the port of Tampico. This also implies the projected industrial port at Altamira near by Tampico. Miss Higgins says, is the most convenient port for the United Kingdom; it stretches from the mouth of the river Pánuco to a point about 18km upstream, and has a large and comparatively well-educated workforce and a lower minimum wage than Mexico City and many other towns and cities.

Communications with the main production and consumption centres by rail and road are good.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

For the traveller

How to get there

Benito Juarez, the international airport, is about 20 to 30 minutes' drive from the centre of Mexico City. British Airways offers several direct flights from London each week, and will also arrange connections with other carriers by its New York and Miami routes. British Caledonian operates daily to Houston, where direct flights to Mexico City are available. British and Pan Am also offer daily services via the United States.

The Aztec Eagle runs daily from St Louis, Missouri, via Laredo to Mexico City. Other United States border town rail links are at El Paso, Nogales, California, Presidio, Eagle Pass and Brownsville. All except the last two offer dining car and sleeper services. Bus services are also available.

It is possible to travel by sea from Britain through the Panama Canal. American P&O, but the services are only occasional and the trip takes about two and a half weeks.

Local travel

All the country's main commercial centres are linked by the state airline, Aeromexico, and Compañia Mexicana de Aviación, both of which offer daily services to most of the major cities in turn. Link Mexico City with other capitals such as Líe (Lima), Bogotá (Bogotá) and the like. Night trains are available from the capital to Guadalajara and Monterrey; but these apart, the railways are unlikely to prove particularly attractive to the business visitor. An excellent network of paved roads exists, covering some 125,000 miles, but the distances can take the main majority. Tourists must obtain a card for either single or multiple entry; these are issued free by the Embassy's Consular Section in London or by airline offices.

Taxis in the capital are cheap, but their drivers often need guiding to the destination and as in London the cabs seem to disappear when rains. Two-passenger Volkswagens, usually painted yellow, charge metered fares. Orange *sitios* (taxis taken from a rank, or those used outside city limits, tend to be more expensive and the rate is best agreed in advance). The latter also apply to the *tourismo* cars which wait outside the larger hotels.

Taxis are green and white and ply the city's main thoroughfares, charging flat rates over given distances. Self-drive or chauffeur-driven cars are available but are expensive. The capital has a good, if somewhat limited, metro on which a flat fare is charged if a book of 10 tickets is purchased.

Taxi drivers are tipped only when a special or extra service is given. In restaurants the tip is usually 10 to 15 per cent and in bars 10 per cent. Clockroom attendants are given about five pesos and theatre usherettes one peso.

Importation through customs of fruit, plants and flowers is not allowed, but this apart there are no particularly restrictive regulations. If in doubt, check with embassy officials.

Travel documents needed

Visas are not required for entry into Mexico, but omitted when telelexing from the United Kingdom.

Note: The initial 0 should be omitted when telexing from the United Kingdom.

What is required is a passport valid for six months and a return air ticket.

What to wear

For Mexico City, the rule is lightweight suits for men in the summer. European-style clothing in the winter.

Women will be most comfortable in silk or cotton dresses during the hotter months, and in light wool or jersey suits around the turn of the year. Cocktail dresses need a light coat or wrap useful for evening functions.

A light raincoat and/or umbrella will be needed in the rainy season, and sunglasses are advisable. Good fast dry-cleaning and laundry services are offered by the larger hotels.

Hotels

Mexico City: Telephone Telex

1. Alameda 01772416

2. Arístos 01771067

3. Camino Real 01773001

4. Continental Hyatt 01773983

5. María Isabel Sheridan 01772482

6. Presidente, El 06954444

7. Presidente Chapultepec, El 2507700

8. Reforma 01776392

9. Reforma 5469660

10. Hotel del Bosque 01772482

11. Hotel Hacienda 01772482

12. Hotel Intercontinental 01772482

13. Hotel Nacional 01772482

14. Hotel Plaza 01772482

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Industry and politics

Head of State

Mexico's President is Señor José López Portillo, who was born in Mexico City on June 19, 1916, and is a member of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI). A law graduate and at one time the country's Finance Minister, Sr López Portillo was elected on July 1, 1976, when he polled nearly 17,000,000 of the 25,900,000 votes cast. He took office for a six-year term on December 1, 1976, and is thus scheduled to make way for his successor in the second half of 1982 if López Portillo is married and has three children.

System of government

The right to vote has been given to all nationals with an honourable record of adulthood who are 18 or older. Women were given the same franchise as men in the early 1950s. The census prints of all registered voters are recorded. The Mexican Congress consists of a Senate and a lower house of Representatives. The Senate has 64 members who are elected from each of the 31 states and two on the federal district which makes up Mexico City. They serve for six years, and spouses also "elect" for their spouses' terms since 64 senators are now elected by popular instead of the other under a system of equal proportional representation. Newly senators & deputies can be reelected until after another term has ended.

The President, appointed by direct popular vote, cannot seek reelection once he served his six-year term, as he who appoints the ministers. If the president's office falls vacant during a first two years, a general election must be held; after a period, a successor is appointed by Congress. Each of the 31 states has its own governor, also elected by popular vote, and each has a house of local representatives and a superior court of justice. The presidential reelection rule is also offered to the governors.

By far the largest of the political parties and the ones which dominate the country's affairs for years, is the Partido Revolucionario Institucional, or PRI. The Partido de Acción Nacional (NA) has about 10 per cent of the deputies and forms the opposition. Other groups are the Partido Popular, the Partido Revolucionario Democrático (PRD), the Partido Comunista Mexicano (PCM), and the Partido Democrática Mexicano (DM).

Cabinet Ministers

- Foreign Affairs: Antonio Toledo Corrales
- Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources: Francisco Merino Rábago
- Commerce: Jorge de la Vega Domínguez
- Communications and Transmissions: Emilio Mújica González
- Finance: David Ibarra
- Energy: Relations: Jorge Arredondo y Alvarez, la
- Health and Welfare: Dr. Emilio Martínez Manzano
- Land Settlements and Public Works: Arq. Pedro Amírez Vázquez
- Interior: Enrique Olires Samana

National budgets (1,000m pesos)

| | 1973 (Budget) | 1979 (Actual) | 1980 (Budget) |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Central government income | 409.3 | 837.9 | 646.8 |
| Public sector entities' income | 371.7 | 837.9 | 570.8 |
| Central government borrowing | 213.8 | 459.7 | 259.2 |
| Entities' borrowing | 129.5 | 439.7 | 266.6 |
| Gross income | 1,242.3 | 1,277.6 | 1,683.4 |
| Current spending | 631.1 | 657.5 | 663.9 |
| Capital spending | 241.6 | 302.8 | 408.4 |
| Debt servicing | 251.5 | 337.2 | 311.1 |
| Expenditure | 1,124.3 | 1,277.6 | 1,623.4 |
| Expenditure by selected sectors | | | |
| Industry | 300.1 | 281.2 | 521.2 |
| Welfare and education | 221.7 | 230.2 | 232.6 |
| Agriculture | 65.9 | 104.1 | 123.9 |
| Communications and transport | 65.4 | 73.5 | 97.1 |
| Trade | 51.7 | 46.2 | 62.4 |
| Administration | 47.8 | 34.1 | 42.9 |
| Defence | 15.8 | 13.5 | 18.9 |
| Others | 12.9 | 16.5 | 20.2 |
| Non-attributable | 322.0 | 475.2 | 514.2 |
| Total | 1,124.3 | 1,277.6 | 1,683.4 |

Balance of payments (\$m)

| | 1977 | 1978* | 1979* |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Revenues (exports, service and transfer payments) | 8,433.6 | 11,257.7 | 16,403.4 |
| Outflow (imports, service and transfer payments) | 9,986.9 | 14,258.0 | 20,649.9 |
| Balance on current account | -1,550.3 | -2,342.3 | -4,246.5 |
| Capital account | | | |
| Long term | 4,350.3 | 4,357.5 | 4,094.9 |
| Short term | -1,857.1 | -1,133.7 | 459.8 |
| Balance on capital account | 2,513.3 | 3,223.8 | 4,554.7 |
| Special drawing rights | | | 70.0 |
| Errors and omissions | -458.7 | -659.0 | -89.3 |
| Net surplus or deficit | 504.3 | 222.5 | 263.9 |

Preliminary figures

Sources of central government income ('000m pesos)

| | 1979 (Budget) | 1980 (Budget) |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Income: tax | 137.4 | 198.7 |
| Taxes on industries, production and trade | 73.5 | 84.1 |
| Turnover tax | 64.8 | — |
| VAT (from 1980) | — | 80.9 |
| Export tax | 39.2 | 150.5 |
| Social security | 51.4 | 67.0 |
| Other taxes | 42.9 | 65.6 |
| Total | 409.3 | 646.8 |

Labour and Social Welfare: Pedro Ojeda Paul

National Defence: General Félix Galván López

The Navy: Admiral Ricardo Chávez Lora

Petroleum and Industrial Promotion: José Andrés de Oteyza

Programme and Budget: Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado

Public Education: Fernando Solana Morales

Tourism: Guillermo Rosell de la Lama

Officials

Attorneys-general: Mexico City: Oscar Flores Sánchez

Mexico City: Augustin Alanís

Chief of Staff (Presidential): General Miguel Ángel Godínez

Director of the Federal Electricity Commission: Hugo Gutiérrez del Río

Mayor of Mexico City: Professor Carlos Hank González

Direktor of the Mexican Institute of Social Security: Arsenio Farrell Cubillas

Chief of the Military Industry Department: General Alfonso Aguirre Rámes

Director-general of Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX): Jorge Díaz Serrato

Private Secretary to the President: Roberto Casilas

Domestic economy

Mexico's ambition is to become a major industrial economy before the end of this century. In the past two years it has taken firm steps on this road. After an economic crisis in 1978 which culminated in a 20 per cent devaluation of the peso, recovery has been rapid.

Chief of Staff (Presidential): General Miguel Ángel Godínez

Director of the Federal Electricity Commission: Hugo Gutiérrez del Río

Mayor of Mexico City: Professor Carlos Hank González

A key feature of the recovery has been a dramatic increase in oil reserves and subsequent production. In addition, Mexico is a leading producer of silver, lead, zinc, copper, sulphur, graphite and many other minerals. Cultivation of almost any agricultural product is possible, limited only by adequate water supplies.

Inflation, measured by consumer prices, rose by 20 per cent last year, followed by a further 13.2 per cent in the first five months of 1980. New minimum wage agreements for 1980 were settled at an average of about 18 per cent.

Public sector spending was up by more than a fifth last year at 1,278,000 pesos, a contributing factor to a 38 per cent increase in money supply. This year's budget expects a 50 per cent increase in spending over the 1979 level.

Investment by the Government is expected to total 814,500 pesos in 1980-82, the sum of creating 2,500,000 jobs.

In the industrial sector steel production rose 4 per cent last year to 7,040,000 tonnes; output this year is estimated to be 20 per cent higher at 8,500,000 tonnes.

Cement production is expected to rise by 20 per cent in 1980-82, from 1,700,000 tonnes in 1979 and a further 8 per cent last year to reach 2,736,000 pesos. A similar increase is expected this year.

Crude domestic product grew in real terms by 7 per cent in 1979 and a further 8 per cent last year to reach 2,736,000 pesos. A similar increase is expected this year.

While growth in this sector rose only 2.2 per cent last year, the annual growth target is 5 per cent for 1980-82, in order to achieve food self-sufficiency. Main crops include coffee, cacao, soya beans and citrus fruit.

Population and employment

The population increased steadily at 3.6 per cent a year during the past decade to reach 69,300,000 in mid-1979.

The rise is concentrated mainly in the large cities. About 46 per cent of the population is under 15.

There are no official national statistics for unemployment, but in the federal district of Mexico City it is estimated that about 10 per cent are unemployed with about 40 per cent under-employed. About 800,000 new jobs are needed each year simply to remain at this level.

The variable minimum wage is believed to be equivalent to about \$6.50 to \$7 a day.

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MILES OFF COURSE

When the Prime Minister and his senior colleagues returned to their desks after their brief summer holidays they were starkly confronted with the evidence that our entire economic strategy since taking office was facing a crisis of credibility. The core of its policy has been a programme plan, built around steadily rising targets year by year, for a rate of growth of the stock of money in the economy. This plan is predicated on the theory that a summing up of up to three years' average rates of increase in the money supply over the last few years ahead was to engender confidence that there would be no backsliding under the pressure of financial events and political pressures.

Equally, the assumption that the Government did stick to these targets came at a higher level; it was hoped that all those involved in the economy would adjust their behaviour accordingly in accordance with the new rules that despite historically high levels of interest rates that have been set since June 1979, there was the slightest possibility of money supply being kept within the Government's target range of an annual rate increase between 7 and 11 per cent in a period up to next April, since the present targets in the monetary sphere are now credible. The Government is still with a range of options, one of which is attractive from a point of view.

It could carry on in effect, however, declaring new targets at such time as it was more about the underlying position of the economy and of the monetary system and then seeking to establish a "credible" programme for action. This, however, would be a substantial alteration of the reasoning that led to the adoption and publication of the medium term plan in first place.

It could admit that it had been blown miles off its initial course, but intended to resume the track set out in the medium term plan. The realities here are those of re-establishing the credibility of a mid-term second time round, in it was so conspicuously not

achieved in the first instance.

Further, an estimate of whether a second attempt to hold the annual rate of growth to say, a range of between 7 and 11 per cent was likely to be any more successful than the first would depend on an analysis of what went wrong in 1979 and the first half of 1980.

A third possibility is that the Government should adopt more modest targets which are less far below the expected rate of inflation than those of the past year. Such a policy would have the additional potential attraction of being compatible with somewhat lower interest rates and a lower exchange rate for sterling than would otherwise be the case, thus offering some relief to industry and commerce in their present travails. Indeed leaders of British industry individually and collectively through the Confederation of British Industry are urging the Government to go even further in this direction.

The Prime Minister is bound to be aware of the increasingly strong assault on her basic economic policy from this traditional source of support for a Conservative government.

Even this third option, however, has major unattractive aspects from Mrs Thatcher's point of view. In the first place, to accept publicly that monetary targets should be set simply a point or two lower than the expected rate of inflation is to reject the theory on which the whole of the previous policy was based; namely that the rate of growth of the money supply determines the rate of inflation and not vice versa. Quite apart from the problems of political presentation that would face the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in moving to such a policy, it would be open to the objection from the Prime Minister that it would be wrong to abandon a strategy just at the moment when the sweat and the tears of the past year were being demanded by British industry.

But a dramatic fall in interest rates accompanied by a similar move in the exchange rate, would not hold out the prospect of steady improvement in conditions in the years ahead. What is required is the prospect of gradual, but steady reduction in interest rates, rather than a downward rush that would hold within it the danger of the process being reversed.

At least it could be made that at last the rate of inflation was coming down; that the process of putting British industry through a wringer was beginning to produce attitudes of greater realism; that the "experiences" of the past year and the prospects for 1980-81 would mean that a leaner and above all a more productive

year.

THE HOSTAGES 319 DAYS ON

the fact of it, the latest demands laid down by the mullah Khomeini for the release of the fifty-two American hostages held in Iran offer the hope yet of a solution to the crisis. A message to the 120,000 Muslims marking the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Khomeini declared that America had to give four understandings if negotiations on the hostages were to move forward: would have to return the medium term plan. The realities here are those of re-establishing the credibility of a mid-term second time round, in it was so conspicuously not

achieved in the first instance. It would presumably be easy enough for the United States to guarantee "non-interference" in Iranian affairs. American financial claims against Iran have never been precisely calculated, but certainly include something in the order of 2,000 million dollars in outstanding bank loans. Here too a solution could no doubt be worked out. As for the 8,000 million dollars worth of Iranian assets frozen in American banks, this was a preemptive move by America to prevent a threatened withdrawal of Iranian funds, rather than an act of retaliation for the seizure of the embassy hostages so that an Iranian promise not to drain its assets from United States banks might provide a suitable quid pro quo. The question of the Shah's personal fortune is more complicated, however, not so much for the reason given by Mr Reagan as because nobody is quite sure how much is involved, or where it is held.

It is discouraging that Iran's Parliament is apparently considering adding further conditions to the list. Judging from remarks made by some Majlis deputies yesterday, the Parliament may well insist that America should "atone" for its misdeeds, something President Carter has all along refused to do. It is also possible that the Majlis will want to put the hostages on trial after all. The deputies are loyal to Khomeini almost to a man, but he has said

that the final word on conditions for release must be left to them, thus in effect still placing the hostages' fate in the hands of the hardline Islamic fundamentalists who dominate the Parliament.

Mr Carter's difficulty is that while his chances of reelection would certainly rise dramatically if the Iranian crisis were resolved before the presidential election in November, he cannot

very well make concessions in the matter of a trial, or over the question of American arrears for past sins. Mr Muskie is therefore quite right when he says that it would be a mistake to raise expectations unduly.

The Ayatollah's conditions, moreover, came at the end of a long tirade against America, which he described as "the Number One enemy" of the oppressed and deprived nations of the world", adding, unambiguously: "We are at war with America". Mr Muskie was surely also right to suggest, as he did in a letter to the new Iranian Prime Minister, Mohamad Ali Rajai, a month ago, that in the circumstances regular channels should be established between Washington and Teheran, "preferably directly".

Reservations and complications aside, the Ayatollah Khomeini's latest statement does, after all, offer an unexpected opening. The best way to capitalize on it would be to discredit, but hard-headed talking behind the scenes, with American electoral considerations well in the background.

Yours faithfully,

A. F. T. MARRION, Kora Wildlife Preservation Trust, 261 Kings Road, SW3.

September 15

Ernest Bevin centenary

From Mr G. W. Quick-Smith
Sir, A worthy memorial to Ernest Bevin is within the grasp of us all—a more kindly, tolerant and friendly spirit in industrial relations. In the 1930s he suffered great provocation at the hands of some of the employers with whom I was associated, but I never saw him show the slightest signs of ill will. He may have been more fiery in his earlier days as the Dockers' KC, but he must always have had that magnanimous heart, that brought friendly understanding in the most unpromising situations.

A study should result in a plan for future re-establishment programmes in other parts of Africa, as well as leading to an improved administration of natural resources. We would also hope to involve the involvement of some international experts in this.

So nor believe that it should necessary to confine our wild life to zoos. In fact we see it as evident that unless the terri-

that the final word on conditions for release must be left to them, thus in effect still placing the hostages' fate in the hands of the hardline Islamic fundamentalists who dominate the Parliament.

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Yours faithfully,

A. F. T. MARRION, Kora Wildlife Preservation Trust, 261 Kings Road, SW3.

September 15

On trivial import

From Miss C. Wilson

Sir, Further to Mr Prince-White's letter published today (September 15) regarding unnecessary imports, may I offer the following:

A slate pencil bought in Wales; made in Portugal.

Yours faithfully,

C. WILSON, 20 Ballesk Close, Birmingham.

Birmingham.

September 15

Yours faithfully,

ROGER MUSGRAVE, 208 Somersett Road, SW1.

Birmingham.

September 15

Yours faithfully,

J. P. BROOKES-LITTLE, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, The College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street, EC4.

September 15

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE CAMPBELL, The Old Orchard, Martock, Somerset.

September 15

Yours faithfully,

IAN PARSONS, Jugg's Corner, Kingston, Lewes, Sussex.

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September 15

Yours faithfully,

IAN PARSON

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

HIGGS AND HILL

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Stock Markets

FT Ind 493.3, down 2.4

FT Gilt 704.7, down 0.2

Sterling

\$2,387.0, down 100 points

Index 75.5, down 0.1

Dollar

Index 83.3, down 0.1

DM 1,784.1, up 36 pts

Sold

\$669.50, up 50 cents

Money

\$1m sterling 16.15%

\$1m Euro \$ 12.12

\$1m Euro £ 12.12

IN BRIEF

Proposals
unlisted
market
proved

Stock Exchange Council
approved the revised
rules for unlisted securities
market in the shares of
companies.

All replaces the existing
whereby unquoted securities
can be traded under Rule
which has been criticized
lack of formal regula-

tions in the new unlisted
securities market are expected
in about two months.

Oil
should begin next
in Mitel Corporation,
ian telephone exchange
urer. Sea Containers is
ing to London and
the first Japanese com-
seek a listing since the
exchange controls comes
on next month.

Financial Editor, page 17
nationalization

prospect of nationalization
the General Electric
y, Britain's largest
ics and electrical con-
disclosed in a discus-
ument on interna-
published yesterday
Labour Party.

lization
delay

sides in the Rothschild
were still considering
respective positions yes.
The board of Rothschild
sation, parent of the
ill soon have to decide
Mr Jacob Rothschild
its board.

dealings
the disclosure that M
aba, the Malaysian busi-
and politician controls
5 per cent of Dunlop
a, has emerged that
Mr Brian's colleagues on
of Goodwin Plaza,
est group, "Baba",
in the ownership. On
Mr Eric Chin, Ab. M
close financial adviser,
1,000 shares and Mr
Lek held 780,000.

shares
ations for shares in
setker's 1,000cc future,
Hesker Motor-
e exceeded the 1.8
offer by just under
Offer, at 80p, the
all star dealers under
exchange rule 163(2)
dnesday.

drive
cholas Edwards, the
for Wales, is to lead
mission to America
in an effort to bring
high technology comp-
to Wales.

in China
land Bank will be the
first bank to set up a
ative office in Peking—
ceived permission to go
on Chinese authorities.

trear higher
Dow Jones Industrial
closed 5 points up
0. The S & P gained
1320.10. The S was

PRICE CHANGES

Prices: 5p to 22p
Ind 51 to 511
56 5p to 33p
it Res 30p to 54p
From 11p to 20p

Dolls 11p to 8p
42p to 54p
5p to 52p
4p to 24p
Cros 12p to 77p

THE POUND

Bank buys 2.09
Bank sells 2.02
Norway Kr 51.40
71.25
7.63
13.55
9.02
10.29
4.41
104.50
S 12.10
d 11.60
2082.00
531.00
Is Gld 4.75

Bank buys 13p to 32p
Sobracie 5p to 42p
Tomkin F. H. 2p to 19p
U. C. Invest 35p to 66p
Willis Faber 18p to 25p

Ingram H. 2p to 21p
Kinsman 15p to 75p
Rte Tinto Zinc 15p to 46p
Vistaform Ltd 10c to 41c
Wagon Fin 4p to 40p

Paterson Zach 13p to 32p
Sobracie 5p to 42p
Tomkin F. H. 2p to 19p
U. C. Invest 35p to 66p
Willis Faber 18p to 25p

Norway Kr 11.30
123.50
115.50
South Africa Rd 2.20
2.08
Spain Fin 177.50
170.00
Switzerland Fr 3.85
3.85
USA S 2.44
2.37
Yugoslavia Dr 74.25
69.75

Bank buys 11.60
Bank sells 11.25
Barclays Bank International Ltd
Different rates apply to travellers
cheques and other foreign currency
business.

Steel corporation to invest more than £1,000m over next four years

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Last year's annual report, in July.

In its White Paper on public expenditure plans earlier this year, the Government was unable to quantify the corporation's capital needs because at that time they had not been determined.

The BSC is drawing up detailed plans for the Government on how it proposes to eliminate its huge losses, and these indicate a steadily rising trend in capital spending in each of the years to 1983.

The estimates are contained in the latest investment forecast published by the Process Plant Economic Development Committee. This is the first time that the ailing steel industry has been prepared to make any forecast of the likely level of its spending against the background of the enormous losses which it has recorded in the past few years.

Process plant companies have been informed that the estimates are uncertain, subject to revision and should be treated with caution. Nevertheless, they indicate a level of spending this year of £151m, rising next year to £214m with a substantial jump in 1982 to £300m and rising again (in 1979 prices) to a peak of £385m in 1983.

These forecasts, made by the BSC to the process plant little Nedd, were submitted after the three-month strike which halted all BSC production in the first three months of this year, and before publication of the BSC's investment programme over the next few years will not involve any big schemes, but will be designed to improve yield and quality of the steel it produces in particular through the introduction of continuous casting facilities.

Oil and gas outlay to rise

By John Huxley

An early start to a £1,100m pipeline system to gather gas from North Sea oil and gas fields and Occidental Petroleum plans to spend £5m on three developments.

British makers of process plant—such as pumps, boilers, offshore installations, tanks, valves and heat exchangers—would hope to pick up a large share of orders. However, it is not clear whether—or when—all will go ahead. Moreover, plant suppliers can expect foreign competition.

The forecasting committee emphasizes that the figures should be treated with caution. In the oil and gas industries the tendency has been to sanction additional spending. By contrast, the Central Electricity Generating Board may be forced to revise much demand when it goes on offer tomorrow morning.

In the money markets, short-term interest rates remained firm. In part this reflected the general tightness in the market at the moment, but the situation appeared to be exacerbated yesterday as banks moved to adjust their books ahead of today's "make-up" for the end of the September banking month.

Financial Editor, page 17

British Gas hopes to use Staffjord field

By Bill Johnstone

British Gas has made a formal proposal to extract natural gas from Norwegian Statof's Staffjord field in the North Sea.

A response is expected by the end of the year but because the political climate in Norway is not conducive to the country's natural resources being exported the reply will come from the government.

Gas from the wholly Norwegian owned Ekoifisk field goes by pipeline to Enden in northern Germany, where it is fed via the European gas grid to Germany, Belgium and Holland.

British Gas exports gas from the Fjord Field which is owned jointly by the Norwegians (60 per cent) and the British (40 per cent).

The decision to sell Norwegian gas from the Ekoifisk and Fjord fields was made because of the technical problems of taking the gas over the Norwegian trench.

But technology has advanced considerably since the early

Opec may revive Third World talks

From Michael Hirst
Vienna, Sept 16

A new initiative to relaunch talks between the industrialized countries of the west and the Third World on an improved economic order is to be made by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Finance, foreign and oil ministers of Opec members meeting here today agreed to press for a new dialogue within the framework of the global monetary fund and the World Bank where the west has voting majority.

Details of Opec's initiative

may not emerge fully until

Brussels. Mr Hamid Zabari,

Opec's spokesman, said the organization wanted to operate

within the framework of the

Third World taking part in

the dialogue. It was not interested

in talks with the oil consuming

countries alone.

But it is clear from what

ministers have said that Opec

sees the global negotiations as

a forum in which energy

questions may be discussed and

that it is hard for the west

to resist. If it does, it will not

be Opec which loses international prestige.

Coupled with the call for a

new dialogue will be a state-

ment on Opec's plans for

increased aid to the Third

World. Plans for a grandiose

scheme to increase aid have

met initial difficulties here.

Algeria and Venezuela have

pressed for a big increase in

the aid fund agreed at Caracas

last December and suggested

that it be turned into a bank.

At the same time Iran has

proposed a scheme which would

link aid to oil price increases

while the west would be invited

to contribute in line with the

growth in the cost of its own

manufactured exports to the

third world.

Ministers now see these two

schemes as complementary.

Saudi Arabia, however, be-

lieves the bank to be too big

and too complicated to move

to make it and looks likely

to go on with its slightly

enlarged fund, while other plans

involving the consumer coun-

tries continue to be discussed.

In its discussions on setting

up a new dialogue with oil con-

suming and developing coun-

tries, Opec delegates have con-

sidered three plans. These are:

to attempt a new North/South dialogue of the type held in Paris at the Conference of Internationals Economic Co-

operation (CIEC) which by the

Third World at least was con-

sidered a failure, to set up a

number of small groups for dis-

cussion or to go through the

United Nations. The last idea

was chosen, but Opec wants a

framework for talks in which

topics and countries may be

split into manageable discus-

sions.

Its ideas mesh nicely with

the plans for the global negotia-

tions now running into difficul-

ties. These plans are not

markedly different from the

Paris discussions and despite

the impetus given to new world

wide talks on the developing

world by the report of the

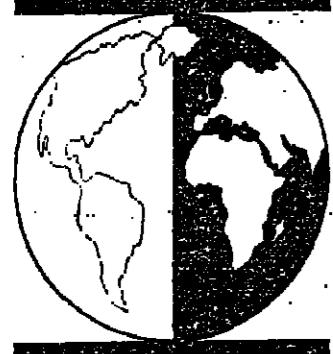
Brundt Commission earlier this

year, western diplomats and

economists have strong doubts

that a new round will be the

more successful than the



Revised statistics estimate unrecorded dealings at nearest 2pc

Not so much of the 'hidden economy'

Britain's "hidden economy"—those dealings and activities not recorded in national income—appears to be smaller than was thought at first. According to the Central Statistical Office the minimum size of the hidden economy (sometimes termed the "black" or "twilight" economy) is nearer 2 per cent than the 3.5 per cent the government statisticians estimated when they first looked at the subject last year.

This is revealed in the annual *Blue Book*, more formally known as *National Income and Expenditure*, 1980 edition, which gives the definitive statistical profile of the economy during the previous year.

The best guide to the hidden economy is the difference between income and expenditure of the gross domestic product. However, the previous gap has been reduced, partly as a result of a large upward revision in estimates of corporate profits.

The element of missing income, attributed to tax-evasion income or income-in-kind is thus reduced. However, there still appears to be little doubt that the hidden economy has grown since the middle 1970s.

The *Blue Book* shows that total personal income (income from employment and self-employment, investment incomes and government grants) increased by 17 per cent before tax between 1978 and 1979.

As a result of the cuts in personal taxation during 1979, personal disposable income rose by 18.1 per cent. Savings in 1979 with 14 per cent of disposable income, about 2 per cent higher than the average of the previous three years.

After allowing for inflation, real disposable income is now shown to have

increased by 6 per cent, after an even larger increase of 8 per cent—recorded in the previous year.

This is only the second time since the Second World War that there has been a rise of 14 per cent or more in two consecutive years. The previous occasion was between 1971 and 1973.

| Percentage shares of value-added in GDP* | | 1969 | 1975 | 1979 |
|--|--|------|------|------|
| Industry | | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.2 |
| Agriculture | | — | — | 3.0 |
| Petroleum and natural gas | | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Other mining and quarrying | | 31.8 | 27.6 | 26.3 |
| Manufacturing | | 6.6 | 6.9 | 5.9 |
| Gas, electricity and water, transport and communications | | 11.6 | 11.3 | 10.7 |
| Distributive trades | | 10.2 | 10.2 | 9.8 |
| Insurance, banking and finance | | 6.6 | 7.3 | 8.6 |
| Ownership of dwellings | | 5.0 | 5.7 | 5.7 |
| Public administration and defence, public health services and local authority educational services | | 11.5 | 15.0 | 13.2 |
| Other services | | 12.3 | 11.8 | 12.9 |
| Before adjusting for financial services | | | | |

The *Blue Book* breaks down the contribution made by different industrial sectors to the nation's total gross domestic product. The most notable change that took place in 1979 was the contribution made by North Sea oil and gas which accounted for 3 per cent of total output in 1979.

The largest fall was recorded by the public sector, including administration, health and educational services provided by the General Government. The contribution of this sector to total output was 13.2 per cent in 1979 compared with 15 per cent in 1975.

Over 10 years the lengthening decline of manufacturing industry in Britain and the steady rise of insurance, banking and finance industries is clearly discernible. The contribution of manufacturing to total output was 26.3 per cent in 1979, compared with 31.8 per cent a decade earlier.

By contrast, the contribution of insurance, banking and finance services has grown over the same period: from 6.6 per cent to 8.6 per cent.

In spite of the sharp rise in personal incomes, the total output of goods and services in Britain last year rose by only 11 per cent in real terms. Without North Sea oil and gas, the growth in 1979 would have been only 5 per cent.

The share of company profits (measured after deducting stock appreciation) in gross domestic product fell slightly in 1979, after rising steadily over the previous three years. This fall took place despite the large increase in the company profits of the North Sea oil and gas industries.

In 1979 the share of company profits (net of stock appreciation) in gross domestic product fell to 11.3 per cent from 11.5 per cent in 1978. At these figures are well below the levels of the 1960s, despite the growth of North Sea oil and gas.

Melvyn Westlake

Oil imports will cause 'record deficits'

Oil-importing nations are holding record balance-of-payments deficits this year and must use investment to reshape their economies, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said in Geneva.

Developing countries which export oil may have a record current account surplus of \$115,000m (£47,970m) at the end of 1980, according to rough preliminary estimates in GATT's annual study on international trade prospects.

Third world countries which import oil and the non-communist industrialized nations may have record payments deficits of \$62,000m (£25,865m) and \$60,000m (£25,031m) respectively.

Swedish savings plan

The Swedish Government has announced plans for a £300m long-term savings package to trim its public expenditure during the next fiscal year and to reduce the country's rising budget deficit.

US car sales down

Sluggish domestic car sales in the United States during September reflect continued economic weakness, according to trade experts in Detroit. Sales for the first 10 days of September fell 21.3 per cent on a daily basis to 136,428 from 151,775 last year.

Peking coal plan

Peking has proposed ventures to develop Chinese coal deposits to increase coal supplies to Japan by 10 million tonnes a year after 1990. Mr Toshiro Doko, leader of a Japanese economic mission to China, said in Tokyo.

Italy's record deficit

Italy's trade deficit widened to a record 1,767,000m lire (£874.7m) in July from a deficit of 386,100m lire (£191.1m) in the same month last year, according to the official Statistics Institute in Rome.

Call to end building prices policy

By John Huxley

Building contractors are pressing the Government to abandon its policy of asking them to quote firm prices for contracts lasting up to 12 months.

They say the policy poses particular problems for builders working on public sector contracts and merely helps to perpetuate the rate of inflation.

The principle was counter-productive because it required contractors to predict the rate of inflation and allow it in the tender price. Mr Morton, son Dunbar, president of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, said in Newcastle yesterday.

"Moreover, the federation believes the practice of firm price tendering is inequitable because an increasing number of local authorities require anything up to three months from the date a tender is submitted to acceptance," he added.

A contractor has, in effect, to predict a firm price for up to 15 months. Quite apart from materials price increases, this can involve taking two annual wage negotiating rounds into account."

Bowater-Scott reveals £70m mill proposals

By Edward Townsend

Bowater-Scott, which claims to be Britain's largest producer of domestic and industrial paper tissues, has announced proposals for a £70m mill at Grimsby which could create 250 jobs.

The company, which already operates seven tissue paper machines in the United Kingdom, has been granted a 15-month option to buy a 40-acre site on the outskirts of the town. A spokesman said yesterday that the company would be making a careful study of the market in the coming months before going ahead with the development.

News of the proposed expansion will come as a boost to the country's severely depressed paper and board-making industry. The British Paper and Board Industry Federation said it was "very welcome and encouraging".

Ironically, Bowater-Scott's proposal follows the decision by Bowater UK to close its newsprint mill at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside. The mill is the largest of its type in the country and closure will mean the loss of 1,600 jobs.

Meanwhile, officials of the federation and the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT) are still hoping for a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss the plight of Britain's newsprint industry.

Labour may try to nationalize GEC

By Kenneth Owen

Nationalization of the General Electric Company, Britain's largest electronics and electrical company, may form part of a restructuring of the micro-electronics industry under a future Labour Government, according to a Labour Party discussion paper published yesterday.

The paper said that in microelectronics "GEC has played and continues to play a particularly malignant role". Imos, the National Enterprise Board's semiconductor subsidiary, should receive further state assistance if needed.

Dame Judith Hart, MP for Lanark, chaired a working group of the party's industrial policy subcommittee which wrote the paper. Yesterday she said: "If we are restructuring the industry to maximize the industrial and export potential for Britain, GEC may well need to come within the public sector."

The group concluded that for technological change to benefit working people and their families development and application of technology must be brought under democratic control.

The laws of the marketplace were unsuitable for encouraging the development of science and technology to maintain full employment, the group said.

Dame Judith and other group members would not accept that California's "silicon valley" was a clear exception. This view must cast some doubt on the rigour of the analysis.

For industrial, commercial, strategic and political reasons, the group said Britain should have strong, domestically owned manufacturers of semiconductor technology, including research and development.

"The establishment of such a capacity would stimulate micro-electronic applications throughout the economy and help retain an internationally competitive industrial base in the United Kingdom."

The paper said there was considerable scope for aiding the development of domestic chip production from the public purse. "Further assistance may be necessary for this infant industry by means of direct government subsidy or possibly by controls on the import of chips from abroad."

The computer industry was increasingly indistinguishable from telecommunications, office automation, consumer electronics and electric components, the group said.

"If Britain is to have an indigenous capacity in these areas, labour must look closely at the restructuring of these industries under social ownership," GEC, which occupies a pivotal position in the United Kingdom industry, will form an integral part of these plans."

"Microelectronics: A Labour Party discussion document" published by the Labour Party, London, at 80p.

Telegram offices to close

The Post Office is to reduce the number of international and inland telegram offices from 29 to nine over the next 18 months and redeploy 1,200 of the corporation's 2,500 operators.

The closures are intended to modernize the 100-year-old service. As part of the modernization night telegrams for business use will be accepted at half the normal day price.

Although the overnight telegram was introduced in the 1930s the night telegraph service was never marketed. Post Office officials realized the benefits of an overnight service for business during recent visits to the United States.

The number of telegrams sent by Western Union had dropped from 12 million to 8 million a year but after a "mailgram service" was introduced the number of messages rose to 38 million a year.

The Western Union model is to be used by the Post Office. The content of a telegram is telexed or telephoned and the telegram will be delivered in the first post the day after.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Estimating the number of jobs lost through redundancy

From Mr R. H. Fryer
Sir, The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment has quite right to point out (Letters, September 10) that public announcements of redundancies may sometimes overstate the actual numbers of employees made redundant once the plans are executed. Indeed, it has been alleged by trade union officials that some employers deliberately overstate the likely number of redundancies in the hope of persuading unions quickly to agree redundancy terms and procedures and in order to induce workers to accept so-called "voluntary" redundancy. The sooner it is free to seek alternative employment in a highly competitive labour market.

At the same time, official quarterly notices of redundancy payments in the Department of Employment and the *Parliamentary Gazette* seriously underestimate the number of jobs lost through redundancy. Some workers do not qualify for statutory redundancy payments under the terms of the Redundancy Payments Act because of their age, hours of work or insufficient service; others leave in anticipation of redundancy, foreclosing their redundancy payments in rights to redundancy may have been waived. Mr L

Similarly, work done by W. D. Daniel in 1974 showed that 43 per cent of workers declared redundant were not receiving any financial compensation at all. On top many jobs disappear through redundancy entirely. Because of the non-filling vacancies when employees retire, or reach the short-term contracts in rights to redundancy may have been waived. Mr L right lists of redundant much less than the whole Yours faithfully,
R. H. FRYER,
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Sociology,
University of Warwick,
Coventry CV4 7AL.
September 11.

Giving a fair account of the public services

From Mr C. P. Morton
Sir, I have always been opposed to nationalization and my to earn a living by rectifying inefficiencies. While much of the current criticism of nationalized industries is doubtless true, I believe in presenting a balanced picture. It should also be remembered that many industries were in a parlous state when the taxpayer rescued them. Generalizations such as Mr Brauner's (September 11) can be very misleading, as illustrated by the following example.

We recently had a problem with a new aircraft galley which was repaired by the electronic board. The service was speeded up after explaining the urgency that it offered by all private contractors' contracts and substantially cheaper. The highest estimate was 61 per cent greater than the board's final account, which clearly covered the true costs. There is however a sting in

Taxation allowance for married couples

From Mr C. J. Saville, Glanville
Sir, I entirely agree that the present system of giving tax allowances to married couples is unfair. On the one hand it must satisfy everybody that an allowance was introduced during the last war to encourage married women to work should continue in these days of unemployment. On the other, it is equally absurd that a married man should receive an allowance for a wife who supports herself.

The remedy seems obvious: abolish the married man's allowance and the joint taxation of spouses; tax each spouse as a single person but allow any unexpended part of either spouse's allowances and exemptions to ensure for the benefit of the other. Surely this must satisfy everybody from the Equal Opportunities Commission to the Married Men's Defence Union. If that does not work, then the present allowance for the doubly well-paid couple to live in style is surely absurd.

Other airlines get a difficulty by recruiting staff from the other country. The very least there should be recorded announcement language, welcoming passengers and indicating what is similar. Announcements approach and before passengers leave the aircraft.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. SAVILLE, GLANVILLE
5th Floor, First Assurance House,
4 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5HE.
August 22.

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Yours faithfully,
J. T. COPPOCK
Department of Geograph
University of Edinburgh
High School Yards,
Edinburgh EH1 1NK.
September 3.

Time to review nuclear power plans

From Mrs Annabel Eat
Sir, Now that due to deteriorating demand electricity generation is close with the consequent of 3,500 jobs, will the government consider phasing nuclear power plants, cost huge sums of money to build, employ substantial people to run them, the native energy plants expensive electricity come obsolete in 25 years? Yours faithfully,

ANNABEL EATHERLE
Hawthorne Cottage,
High Street,
Limpfield,
Oxford,
Oxon,
September 12.

Herefordshire and the Welsh link

From Dr James Whetter
Sir, Herefordshire is assuredly English as Mr (September 8) supposed. His Goodwin from church in the "Golden" was always rather proud Welsh connections. And J. E. Morris in his book "Welsh Wars of Edward" gives the pipe rolls of Henry's official title of the county "Herefordshire in Wales".

Having regard to the background of his co-operation, I would have thought Mr Evans his support rather than deriding the Welsh campaign.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WHETTER,
Trelisips,
Gorstan,
St Austell,
Cornwall,
August 8.

Employment legislation

From Mr A. B. M. Batanero
Sir, In my post this morning I received a leaflet advertising a course on employment law entitled "A Practical One Day Course on Employment Obligations and Employees' Rights".

This seemed to me a most concise summary of the one-sided nature of current legislation on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
A. B. M. BATANERO,
First Olympian Securities Ltd,
Market Road, Richmond,
Surrey, TW9 4NC.
September 13.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Cross currents in the gilt market

Authorities had been hoping to get away on application tomorrow. They have not been pleased by this dampening words on interest rates from Sir Keith Joseph and Mr. Den, Chief Secretary at the Treasury. He may yet perk up a bit before final investors come to make their bid, but the minimum tender price for the £100m stock was almost a gher last night than that on the stock, net of accrued interest, differential in spite of the partly-paid new issue.

It may not worry the authorities if relatively little of the new stock is taken up tomorrow. It is, after all, only a day of the October banking month on their side. It might even be that money markets, which were extremely tight yesterday (partly reflecting the fact that today is the September 20 per cent of RIT).

At 35p—against an asset value of 45p RIT shares are obviously not expensive, though there have to be a couple of caveats. Those who bought to the NM Rothschild stake in RIT around 300p a share last month already have a handsome profit which they may now think about realising, and, indeed, some shareholders may not want any part of a company involved in a public dispute.

Willis Faber Conflicting factors

Interim profits are up 19 per cent at £11.9m at Willis Faber, so confounding stock market forecasts of below £5m. It provided a significant fillip to the lack-lustre insurance broking sector which is still brooding on a near 10 per cent shortfall reported last week by Sedgwick.

Shares in Willis led the way with an 18 per cent rise to 251, but others, including Sedgwick, added several pence on the view that the downturn signalled better times.

Unfortunately, this does not seem justified. Conditions in world markets are still difficult. Conditions in world markets are still difficult. Willis reckons second-half results will be little changed from the depressed levels of last year—while the continuing strength of sterling puts relentless pressure on groups which earn premiums overseas and incur expenses at home.

Willis, which seems as mystified as the market over the relative first-half outcome—which but for sterling would have been far better—concedes that it has seen a faint hardening of rates in its important marine and aviation books.

However, real benefits seem to have come from organic growth in income due in part perhaps to gains from the recent turmoil in transatlantic links and improvements in group communications following the installation of new computer systems. At the same time the claims pattern seems to have worked in the group's favour to boost investment income perhaps by more than a quarter to over £4.5m. High interest rates certainly help this business.

Meanwhile, a gain of almost a third from associates to £4.4m seems to point to a good result at Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank in which Willis has a 22 per cent stake although improvements in overseas broking operations have contributed as well.

At the same time investment income has sharply boosted the Sovereign Insurance Company contribution, while the underwriting agencies have contributed more than £100,000, possibly reflecting the last July good year at Lloyd's for some time and of course there is the longer-term doubt after Fisher's proposal for disinvestment.

For the full year Willis is indicating profits of over 19m, although a 10 per cent rise in sterling's value could tip the result by as much as £500,000 either way.

This suggests a p/e ratio of just under 11 fully-taxed while the prospective yield is 6.8 per cent assuming the 8.5 per cent interim increase is carried through to the final. Not much of a premium over the sector for one of its soundest components in fact. But then the whole sector may have to face up to pretty dull figures from some of Willis's less fortunate rivals over the next few weeks.

Business Diary: Shipmates depart • Bull for China's shoppers

union, the wartime who now heads shipbuilders, has spent a good deal of time with the problems of the Government financial targets as set to introduce of management the corporation.

bridge, a growing officers are letting them know that they leave when their contracts expire. After the earlier this year chairman, Admiral Griffin and chief Michael Casey is combining both a moment other parts are either planned or are likely to be replaced.

Elderfield, board finance, is quitting contract expires in Richard Whalley, possible for indus- now on "special" is thought unlikely beyond next March to affect.

is growing about f. Leo Curran, the for engine id Jack Daniels, warship building ch. head of the planning department have British Ship- month. over decks about's 100 or so staff in office are about search for new a decision by the o move its head- trations to New- nization in 1977.



"You have got to admire Mrs Thatcher's impartiality: she will not listen to the CBI either."

London's Kim Hotel in Piccadilly has a new general manager, fresh from masterminding Arabian nights for European heads of state.

The discreetly pin-striped Michael Duffell might remind one of the manila domo from the ballroom of the Royal Household: he is Amman.

In the four years he spent in the employ of King Hussein, Duffell had charge of four great palaces, one in Amman, one of the outskirts, one beside and one for banquets.

He left the job off the recommendation of the interior designer charged with the stupendous fittings of King Hussein's new palace, Al Hashem, which has reverted to the role of a grand guest house since the monarch remarried.

Pay claims: how big an obstacle for Mrs Thatcher?

Mrs Thatcher goes into her forthcoming economic talks with the TUC with one strong hand and one that is weak on the critical issue of pay. Her strong hand is the virtual collapse of wage militancy in the private sector; her weak one, the evident determination of public sector unions to keep pay rises roughly in line with inflation.

This year there has been no clear-cut division between the last wage round and the new winter negotiating season. Local government white collar staff are still locked in arbitration on a 13 per cent offer that is a hangover from July 1, while local authority employers are already preparing the ground for a single figure settlement for the low paid town hall manual workers in six weeks' time.

The spread of settlements in the public sector now covers practically the whole year and this "bridge" between the big spending year of 1979-80 and the next round of wage deal will make it all the more difficult psychologically for Ministers to argue for a clean break with past inflationary expectations.

In the energy and energy-related industries, in particular, it will be almost impossible to push through the Cabinet's tough line of bringing pay settlements substantially lower than the 16 per cent rate of inflation. With the election process for the miners' presidency already on the move, neither the left nor the right in the National Union of Miners can afford politically to be seen to be soft on pay.

And, where the miners go, the power station workers and the railwaymen will follow.

Costly settlements here need not, of course be reflected right across the public sector through the water workers' demand to have caught on to the benefits of linking themselves with the other key utilities. Public service workers face an agonizing choice between jobs and pay rises.

Local government leaders privately fear a rash of New York-style municipal bankruptcies in British town halls if the Government further tightens the rein on spending in this area.

In the Civil Service, prepara-

| Group | Number | Operative date | State of negotiations |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--|
| Post Office engineers | 150,000 | July 1 | 20% settlement plus productivity |
| Industrial civil servants | 160,000 | July 1 | 16.5% settlement |
| Talbot car workers | 20,000 | July 1 | 15% settlement over 18 months |
| Lucas | 20,000 | July 1 | 10% settlement |
| Local govt staff | 540,000 | July 1 | 13% rejected; dispute at arbitration |
| Vauxhall car workers | 23,000 | Sept 15 | 8% accepted |
| Clothing workers | 180,000 | Sept 22 onwards | Offer of 7% from Jan 1 rejected |
| Ford car workers | 55,000 | Oct 21 | "Substantial claim" believed to be 20% |
| Engineering workers | 2,000,000 | Nov 1 | Offer of 6.2%; talks resume Oct 13 |
| BL cars | 90,000 | Nov 1 | Stewards talking of 20% claim |
| Local govt manuals | 1,500,000 | Nov 1 | "Substantial claim" being drawn up; single figure offer expected |
| Tanker drivers | 10,000 | Nov, various | "Substantial" package claim exceeding 20% |
| Firemen | 39,000 | Nov 1 | Automatic updating to stay in top quartile of manual wages |
| Water manuals | 33,000 | Dec 1 | No claim yet |
| Lorry drivers | 160,000 | Dec, various | "Substantial"; like tanker drivers |
| NHS ancillaries | 283,000 | Jan 1, 1981 | Follow on local govt manuals |
| British steel production workers | 70,000 | Jan 1 | No claim yet |
| Mineworkers | 225,000 | Jan 1 | \$100 a week minimum in 35% package claim; talks open Oct 23 |

tions for a possible wage confrontation are already well advanced. A central planning committee on industrial action, which brings together seven unions, meets for the first time this week. Having negotiated 18 per cent settlements last time round, the Civil Service unions could go into battle this winter if the Government fails to implement the findings of the Pay Research Unit.

The prospects for the public sector cannot, however, be viewed in isolation from what is happening in the private sector, where the flight from wage militancy has astonished even the employers. Mr Michael Mallett, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's Yorkshire region, said at the weekend that companies were originally looking for settlements of the order of 10 per cent.

"That expectation is falling rapidly," he said. "The wide spread range of people now seem to be contemplating pay increases somewhere in the 5 to 8 per cent area." Union leaders in Yorkshire were "punch drunk" with redundancies and closures in recent months and no employer ex-

pected a major strike over pay. Our main fear is about 10 per cent settlements under the Government's control."

These regional findings are borne out at national level. Lucas accepted 10 per cent some weeks ago, Talbot car workers have now agreed to 15 per cent spread over 18 months and the men at Vauxhall voted in a secret ballot to take 8 per cent. These have been eloquent testimony to the troubles of the motor industry.

Unemployment and short-time working have also cast a long shadow over negotiations in the engineering industry. With the unions and the Engineering Employers' Federation vying to produce a higher figure for redundancies over the last year, a 6.2 per cent offer on basic rates looks suspiciously close to a settlement figure.

Mr Terry Duffy, the engineering workers' president, is at present seeking re-election against his old left-wing rival Mr Bob Wright. But he is resting on the laurels of the 1979 struggle to reduce the industry's working week rather than going in for a confrontation now.

In traditionally low paid industries, where moderate settlements have not saved jobs, a note of despair informs this

round of negotiations. Clothing manufacturers for instance, have offered 5 per cent to about 180,000 workers from January 1. But because most agreements expire long before that

year's steel strike.

So now all strikes are based on a nice calculation of profit and loss by seasoned militants. And, having established the Class Comparability Committee on the grounds that it was an engine of wage inflation, ministers have no obvious safety valve to allow pressure in the pay system to escape. If employers have enthusiastic recourse to the considerable new armoury available under the Employment Act, further pressure will build up.

While the remorseless toll of redundancies in the private sector has prompted a real fear of strike-induced unemployment ("in a new sense of realism"), there is some relief that there is a great loss of nerve among the pace-setters in the public sector. The Cabinet's problem will be to isolate the "stand-and-deliver" operators from the general run of settlements.

There is already informed speculation about "special cases". How tight can they hold the net?

Paul Routledge

Frank Vogl

Accelerating pace of America's trade with China

Washington

The bare figures underline the significance of these developments. Trade was negligible before the re-establishment of diplomatic relations early last year, but now China is America's largest communist trading partner.

In the first half of this year trade between the two countries increased by 104 per cent with United States exports to China up by \$784m (£330m) to \$1,487m and with imports from China up by \$207m at \$453m. For the full year the two-way trade is likely to be almost \$4,000m, putting America behind only Hongkong and Japan as China's largest foreign trade partner.

A lot of domestic and foreign politics lies behind these developments, and it serves to secure the whole array of new pacts and deals that is making this business interchange extremely exciting. On the domestic front the Carter administration is relishing Mr Ronald Reagan's uncertainties about Taiwan by demonstrating that with a likely \$2,000m surplus on the trade between America and China this year, the United States is even sold to the Russians.

At the weekend a large Chinese trade exhibition opened in San Francisco. This is the first such trade fair in the United States and it will go on later in the year to Chicago and New York.

This week sees the first meeting in Washington of a high-level United States-China economic commission which will discuss all aspects of trade policy. A shipping agreement between the two countries, will among other things, entitle the United States to have some military application that is more advanced than anything the United States has ever sold to the Russians.

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La creme de la creme

also on page 21

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Are you a people person, a meetings organizer, adept at publicise, a book-keeper, administrator, secretary and more? We want a capable person with a smiling face to help out at the University Church of Christ the King. You will be working for the Resident Chaplain, but also for the Anglican Chaplaincy of the London Universities and Polytechnics.

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Busy small Chelsea Estate Agent require a cheerful, well-spoken and reliable secretary. An interesting and varied job involving secretarial skills, much telephone work and scope to organise and run the office.

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Smart well experienced filing supervisor to work in our confidential office. Duties include filing, sorting, classifying, filing, stamping, Expeditors,秘书, French, BUPA, etc. Salary £4,000-£4,500 per annum.

Please contact Mrs. Risk.

£4,000-£4,500 per annum.

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Daville

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.45 Open University: Education in Portugal (1). 7.45 Composer and conductor: Giuseppe Verdi (complex music); Closedown at 7.55. 8.12 News and weather.

8.30 Pebble Mill at One: Veteran Hollywood actor Gregory Peck is interviewed by Tony Bilbow, and Evelyn Rose has some hints about Jewish cooking.

8.45 How Do You Do: Baby Sit. (See Personal Choice).

8.45 Open University: Education in Portugal (1). 8.55 News and weather.

9.00 Pebble Mill at One: Veteran Hollywood actor Gregory Peck is interviewed by Tony Bilbow, and Evelyn Rose has some hints about Jewish cooking.

9.15 How Do You Do: Baby Sit. (See Personal Choice).

9.30 Play School: Closedown at 9.40. 9.45 News. Bell tells the story of The Three Little Pigs.

9.55 Laurel and Hardy: cartoon. Only a pale shadow of the original film. 10.25 French Trail: Treasure hunt for lost jewels. The Radio Times is essential. 11.45 Think of a Number: Fun with place names. John Ball: Angels Presman.

10.00 John Craven's Newsround: excellently edited junior newsreaders. 10.15 Saturday Interest: 5.10 Jack-in-the-Box: The Music of the Moment. Comedy, with Victoria Spender, Nigel Rathbone and David Young (r). 10.45 Young: with Jan Leeming.

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: IATA: Tel Aviv negotiations. 7.02 Grass and agriculture: 7.30 Genes and development. Close down at 7.55. 8.20 Gharbar: For Asian women, cooking, music, and a series for children. Closedown at 8.45.

8.45 Play School: Same as BBC 1. 8.55 News.

9.00 Music for Teachers: Secondary composition. A skill of making young children interested in music. The teacher is Rachel Griffith (r). Closedown at 9.30.

9.30 Open University: Nature or nurture? 9.55 Northern Ireland (1). 5.45 Classical Choice: 10.00 Music and festivals. 6.05 Oil: The North Sea boom. 6.30 Lizz and nature. 6.55 Embroidery: More about the uses of applique; demonstrated

by Jan Beasley. Applique objects include pockets, bags and pins. 7.20 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

7.30 Top Crown: Final of the BBC 2 Invitation Pairs Tournament. The favourites, Noel Burford and Michael Leach, face their final rivals, Terry Turner and Keith Wildwood. There's the title and £2,000 in cash at stake. From Blackpool, the BBC's Bristol-based folk-rock band who provided the music for the National Theatre production of Lakrits.

9.00 AFASHE: Army medical corps comedy, set in wartime Britain. To fight, B becomes the surrogate father to a Korean family, and his health suffers as a result.

9.25 We, The Accused: Episode 2

of Julia Jones's adaptation of Ernest Raymond's romantic drama about a schoolteacher (Janet Holmes), the wife is to poison her husband. Special guest: actress Anne Down. Repeated on Saturday. (See Personal Choice.)

10.15 International Darts: Scotland versus Australia in the United World Team Matchplay. Pat Nevin leads the Scots. More at 11.45.

11.45 Party Political Broadcast: By the Labour Party.

11.55 Newsnight: News and features, together with sports results.

12.45 International Darts: Wales versus Belgium in the Uniport World Team Matchplay. From the Club Field, Stockton. Hosted by Michael Smith and Tony Green. Ends at approximately 12.15.

THAMES

9.30 Rocket Stasis Hood: cartoon. Dan Cootie McPherson.

9.50 Flyer: Crooks and Carnages (1968) British crime comedy, with Telly Savalas and Warren Oates among a gang who become involved with Dame Edith Evans: a gambling lady. In her steady state.

11.30 The White Stone: Serial about a boy, a girl, and a mysterious stone. 12.00 The Adventures of Rimmer Bear: Rupert and the Pie Contest. Puppet story (r).

12.10 Rainbow: David Moylan's tale Samantha Lee's story. The Rainmaker.

12.30 About Britain: A World of Wonders: Forestry Commission. This has been up to finding its first 50 years of activity.

1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news.

1.30 Crown Court: The jury returns its verdict in the case of the private eye who came to grief. With Alfred Lynch, Faith Brook (r).

2.00 Arrivederci Grimethorpe: Film about the Grimethorpe Colliery Brass Band's visit to Tuscany

last year—a vastly enjoyable musical experience for both them and us (r).

2.45 Fantasy Island: Rubbishy American series about a place where dreams come true (r). 3.45 Quotations: Quotations from our game. With Robin Ray, Alan Coren, Barry Green, Bill Grundy and Brian Finch.

4.15 The Whisper of Glocken: Paul Honeyman tells the story and the excellent illustrations are by John Worster. 4.25 How? Answers to everyday scientific questions. With Jack Harries, heading the team of experts. 4.45 The Best of Marc: Marc Bolan and T Rex, and other bands. 5.15 The Brady Bunch: Family series, set in a small American town.

6.45 Open University: 6.55 News. 6.55 Earth: Good news for women who leave school without formal qualifications. With Joan Shenton. 6.35 Crossroads: More about Alison Corrill and her baby. 7.00 Hart of the Yard: A British serial in San Francisco. With Ron Moody.

7.30 Coronation Street: A new man enters Deirdre's life. But

does it really mean anything?

Also, a tense Sunday lunch at the Titles.

8.00 The Morecambe and Wise Show: Darts' Vader, the civil engineer from Star Wars, becomes Ernie Wise's bodyguard in one of his rough sketches.

8.30 Cowboys: Building trade comedy series with Colin Welland and Roy Kinnear. Tonight: a house is demolished.

9.00 Flickers: First episode in Roy Clarke's remarkably shrewd comedy serial about Britain's early movie showmen. With Bob Roberts and Frances de la Tour holding a fine cast. (See Personal Choice.)

10.00 Party Political Broadcast: By the Labour Party. 10.10 News from ITN and Thames news headlines.

11.30 The Diamond Merchant (1971): Telly Savalas plays a diamond syndicate's chief security officer who tries to find out how gems are vanishing from a mine in South Africa. A thriller. Also starring Christopher Lee and Peter Finch. Director: Val Guest. 12.25 Close & Co: George Brown reads from The Voice of History.

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to help you love them
eyes, and thou shall be satisfied
with bread. — Proverbs 30:13.

BIRTHS

BERRILL—On September 15, at Christian Hospital, Hartlepool, Mrs. Barbara and Philip's daughter, Sophie.

DARRELL—On Sept 5th to Sophie and Gualtiero and Denis a son.

DARRELL—On September 10th at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, Mrs. Barbara and Timothy Charles Williams a son.

EVANS—On September 17, at Aintree Hospital, Liverpool, Dr. Simeon and Diana's daughter, Elizabeth, a sister of Gareth and Lorraine.

BIRTHS

FORSTER—On September 15, to Sarah and Timothy.

GLYN-JONES—On September 13th at St. John's Hospital, Clapham Jones, a daughter, Caroline Mary.

HAWORTH—On 15th Sept. at O.C.H. to Judith Bell, and Jim Haworth, a son.

HAYES—On September 12th at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Whittington, to Helen and Roger Hayes, a son, Alexander.

JERVIS—On September 15th at University Hospital, Southampton, Victoria and Edward, a daughter, Emma Marjorie.

LINDOW—On 12th September, to Thomas and Barbara, a son, Adam.

MAY—On August 19, to Janice and Michael, a daughter, Jennifer.

MATTHEWS—On September 16th at St. Paul's Hospital, and Raymond, a daughter, Anna.

MCNAUL—On September 16th at St. Paul's Hospital, and Michael, a daughter, Anna.

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